

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

This study sought to investigate whether the implementation of the Child Support Grant (CSG) program in Mdantsane has achieved the intended goal of alleviating poverty among children in this area. The study has accomplished this task by looking at the needs of a child such as food, medication, accommodation and educational expenses required in a month. These were looked at in relation to the amount of the grant given by government. As the children are the most vulnerable group in the society, they find themselves in situations which are not of their own making, in this case being poor. The study was done among parents of primary school children and young mothers in Mdantsane in the Eastern Cape Province which is the second largest and one of the poorest provinces in South Africa. The study found that lack of employment and income in many households meant that people and children become vulnerable to many problems associated with poverty such as poor health care. Another factor identified at the root of poverty is the large numbers of orphans and abandoned children under the care of grand parents and unemployed care-givers.

According to the Department of Social Development, the Child Support Grant is one of many poverty alleviation programs implemented by the state to target the poverty stricken children who are South African citizens residing in South Africa. The CSG is defined as the money paid to the primary care giver of the child who must use the grant

for the benefit of the child. (Social Assistance Act No. 13 of 2004)

The CSG was introduced in 1998 to replace the State Maintenance Grant (SMG) (Social Assistance Act No. 59 of 1992). The SMG is the grant which was the product of apartheid government. It had two components, namely, the parental allowance and the child allowance. The children who received this grant had to be in the care of the natural parent, preferably the mother who could not afford to raise the child. The idea behind this policy was to deliver welfare according to welfare needs of different races. According to Dixon (1987) the country had been divided into 13 nations, which were Whites, Coloureds, Indians and 10 Bantustans which were 10 different Ethnic groups. Whites enjoyed sophisticated welfare while the Africans were the most marginalized with no facilities as far as their welfare was concerned. As a result even the SMG which was mostly enjoyed by Whites and their children was not known among the majority of African people. Circular 29 of 1966 cited in the Department of National Health and Population Development (1988) made it clear that government policy on welfare was based on racial grounds meaning that each population group had to serve its people. In addition to the above SA and Bantustans followed a residual approach of welfare provision.

According to Wilensky and Lebaux (1965) cited in Patel (1992) the residual approach is associated with minimal state intervention in the provision and financing of social welfare services, social benefits and social security. Also this help is for a temporal

period when government sees some failure in family or individual functioning. On the other hand in the institutional approach which is also referred to as welfare state, access to services is based on the principle of universality and the role of the state is substantial. The principle of universality refers to the universal access of services like medical care, education, employment, housing and other social assistance programmes to every body.

Therefore social welfare in South Africa during the apartheid era followed the residual approach model which meant that the government was prepared to help its citizens for the moment only where necessary (Patel 1992). It was the Government's belief that individuals were responsible for their own welfare. From the report by the then Department of National Health and Population Development (1988), one of the aims of the Social Welfare Policy was that social welfare was not concerned with the broader social sphere hence it did not include aspects like education housing and medical care. Social welfare related to a far narrower field. This also proves that racial segregation was moving along with the residual approach because welfare was concerned with a particular group, Whites only, not the whole society.

In 1994 South Africa gained its independence and apartheid laws and policies came to an end. Also the territories like Transkei and Ciskei which were deemed independent states and homelands for Black nations came to an end. The country was redivided into 9 provinces and local governments were instituted with a mandate to transform welfare

provision in country.

According to Patel (1992), the Department of National Health and Population Development issued a working document as a point of departure for a new welfare dispensation for all South Africans since Black welfare needs were neglected. From this working document it was also noted that the country would adopt a residual approach for its social welfare that would allow broader participation in policy making and interdependence of social welfare and developmental programmes, also that there would be the phasing in of racial parity in the payment of social grants within five years from 1996. The Child Support Grant was one of these social grants and was introduced in 1998.

The Social Assistance Act, No. 13 of 2004 mandated the Minister of Social Development to provide regulations for persons eligible for the CSG. According to this Act, the persons applying for this grant should meet the financial criteria determined by the Minister by notice of Government Gazette, that is, the means test on which approval of the grant is based. For instance, the income of the primary care giver including that of a spouse should be below R13 200 per annum if living in rural areas. If living in urban areas the combined income should be below R9 600, 00 per annum. At the moment the age limit of the grant is 0-15 years, as the Minister has determined.

There are special conditions concerning the Child support Grant which the primary care giver should comply with. In terms of these conditions the child must have accommodation, and be fed and clothed. The primary care giver is required to allow the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) to access the home in which the child resides. The care giver must ensure that the child receives immunization and other health care services. It is emphasised that the care-giver must use the grant to the benefit of the child. The grant is R220 per month since it was introduced in 1998, considering the unemployment rate in the Eastern Cape which is at 32% according to Statistics South Africa (2003), the government needs to reconsider the welfare of the children. There are cases where the parents or primary care-givers are not in employment, in such instances the Child Support Grant becomes the source of income instead of being used towards the needs of children for whom it is intended. For instance there are cases where three generations are found living in one four-roomed house indicating the extent of poverty in Mdantsane.

In the parliamentary media briefing by the Minister of Social Development, the year 2002 was declared as the “Children First” year (*Abantwana kuqala*). This meant that the government was prepared to focus on children. Along with this a promise was made by the Minister that all children eligible for the grant would not have a problem in getting birth certificates and applying for the grant. However, this promise has remained an illusion for some of the children, particularly in the rural areas.

According to Stats SA (1996) the Eastern Cape is the second poorest province where

children are living in poverty because of many causes such as unemployment, neglect and orphanhood. On its website the Department of Social Development declared that the CSG is one of many poverty alleviation programs implemented by the state to target the poverty stricken children who are South Africans. The CSG is on its tenth year since it was introduced but poverty still persists among children. The Deputy Minister of Social Development indicates that the South African government has committed itself to have child poverty reduction by 2015 and eradication by 2035 (Swanson-Jacob 2007). However the percentage by which this reduction will take place is not indicated.

1. 2 The Statement of the problem

On his parliamentary media briefing in 2002 the Minister of Social Development stated that the child support grant is the biggest poverty alleviation program of government benefiting the most vulnerable sections of the society. However, the CSG does not seem to achieve its objectives of alleviating poverty amongst its intended beneficiaries. This is because the needs of a child to have proper accommodation, to be well fed, have adequate clothing and proper health and education services, as outlined in the policy, far outweigh government intervention of the CSG. The amount attached to the CSG can hardly feed a child for a month, let alone meeting all the other needs. The amount of R220 as insufficient as it is, the government seems to have some assumptions that the CSG will be augmented by other forms of income that the family receives, yet the reality on the ground is that the majority of these children are poor and a large number of them grow up in households where one or both primary care givers

are unemployed. Due to the impact of HIV and AIDS some of these children are orphans and are taken care of by grand parents who also depend on social grants.

It is common phenomenon in Mdantsane to find a whole household of five to seven people comprising of aunts, uncles, nephews, sons and daughters depending on social grant for livelihood. In some instances it might even be one or two members of the household receiving a grant, including the CSG. Therefore all these negative conditions of poverty help to undermine the desired impact of the CSG in terms of benefits to the child.

1.3 Objective of the study

The main objective of the study is to assess whether the CSG meets the needs of its intended beneficiaries in the form of providing for proper feeding, clothing, accommodation, health and education expenses as per the conditions of the policy.

The serious conditions of poverty in Mdantsane are mitigating against the good intentions of the CSG. Therefore, there is a need to investigate whether the intervention of the CSG is achieving its intentions in order to develop alternative interventions to meet the needs of impoverished children.

1.4 Significance of the study

While the CSG policy is a step in the right direction, there is a need to make an assessment of the implementation of this policy and to identify gaps. This will contribute to an identification of alternative interventions and to hopefully lead to a policy review by government to consider the improvement of the CSG policy. This study is important particularly in a poor place such as the Eastern Cape Province.

1.5 Delimitation of the study

The investigation will be limited only to an analysis of the conditions mentioned by the policy which are feeding, clothing, accommodation, education and health services.

1.6 Ethical considerations

The data collection process will not require participants to disclose their names. This is meant to make them to be comfortable and to have confidence in the researcher. The aim is to allow them to be as open as possible to express their feelings and opinions.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The report to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by the Greater JHB Welfare (1999), states the state maintenance grant (SMG) was designed to provide support for impoverished single mothers. The 1983 Memorandum on Social work in the Republic of South Africa shows that the grant was paid to Whites, Indians and Coloureds. This is one of the imbalances created by the apartheid government whereby Whites especially enjoyed sophisticated welfare while Africans were marginalized and lived in poverty. African women were denied access to the grant. This shows how policy can be used to establish policy priorities that allow for the creation of deprivation. In this case policy makers were Whites and social welfare policy was in such a way that it favoured the White minority (Patel 1992).

2.2 Background

According to Patel (1992) South Africa's social welfare policy was influenced by Darwin's theory. In this theory there is a belief that natural hierarchy of human races exists whereby there are those who are primitive and those that are civilized. It is from this theory that the apartheid government justified its racial segregated welfare policies and programs. From the 1950s South Africa introduced a policy of separate development in which welfare had to be delivered according to the departments of

different races which were Whites, Coloureds, Indians and Africans. From this theory Whites were regarded as civilized while the Africans were primitive (Patel 1992).

2.3 Social Policy and Social Welfare

According to Johnson (1994) social policy is a collective strategy to address social problems. Social policy aims to alleviate social problems such as hunger, poverty and mental illness. Gallagher (1981) sees social policy as being concerned with the social needs and can be defined in terms of social purposes. Social policy involves societal mechanisms that bring about social change. From these two definitions of social policy one can see that they are both concerned with social problems and social needs in order to help those who are deprived. Monyai (2007) argues that social policy is concerned with the achievement of social development and that this will depend on the distribution of social resources. As long as the distribution of social resources takes into consideration the issue of the equality of citizens the process of social development will be sustained.

While social policy aims to address social problems, social welfare is defined in different ways by different authors. Social welfare is defined by Henderson (1992) as being concerned with the treatment and prevention of social problems, the development of human resources and the improvement of the quality of life. She further states that social welfare focuses on helping people to use their resources better. Also that voluntary and government agencies seek to contribute to the solutions of recognized

social problems to improve the well being of individuals and groups. Mckendrick (1990) agrees with Henderson when he defines social welfare as a system designed to aid individuals and groups to attain satisfying standards of life and health. Both these definitions are talking towards the problem of poverty which needs to be prevented from moving from one generation to another. In the case where it is already experienced people need some form of aid whereby they will live fulfilling lives.

On the other hand Federico (1990) suggests that the goal of social welfare is to help people to function effectively in their social environment. If people's needs are not met they will not function well. For instance, in the case of children, in order for them to be responsible adults that will contribute in the economy of their country they need to be educated. They need to be skilled workers that will in return serve their communities. In this way social welfare will have achieved a worthwhile cause.

2.4 Social welfare in SA

There are two views of social welfare, namely, the residual and the institutional welfare approaches. Colby (1989) views the residual type of social welfare as attending to emergency functions and is expected to withdraw when the family and the economic system work properly. Emergency functions refers for instance to a family that has a breakdown because of unemployment, government has to maintain such a family by means of social assistance until such time that they can look after themselves again. On the other hand the institutional type of social welfare is viewed as the opposite of the

residual approach. In this approach, social welfare is accepted as normal and there is no need for emergency. If people cannot provide fully for themselves this is seen as a normal condition. Henderson (1992) takes this further by pointing out that, "It is important for the state to look after its people but the people should give their hand by looking after resources through employment. The state will benefit through their labour and reward its people by better lives in return."

When the new government came into power in 1994 in South Africa, one of its national goals of welfare was to facilitate the provision of appropriate developmental social welfare services to all South Africans, especially those living in poverty, who are vulnerable and who have special needs. South Africa thus followed the residual type of social welfare. Mckendrick (1990) supports this move by stating that because South Africa's social welfare comes into play only when structures like family, individual or economic system has a break down, the state's help is not a citizen's right but a privilege that may be granted under certain circumstances and withheld under others. For instance in the case of the CSG, not all children benefit from it but only those that are identified through their care-givers' means tests. The means test is the characteristic of programs that are used through the residual approach. Furthermore, South Africa could not follow the institutional social welfare approach while the state has responsibility towards its citizens, the citizens are also expected to assume responsibility for their own welfare. South Africa's economic state is not yet on the level of well developed industrialized countries such as the Britain where the state looks after all citizens irrespective of employment status (Mckendrick 1990).

2.5 Social welfare and poverty

At the centre of all these efforts of social policy and social welfare is the issue of poverty. Poverty among black people, more particularly among children is a vexing political issue in SA. According to Jones (1990) poverty is mainly on certain groups like the elderly with no children to support them, those who are disabled and sick, bereaved dependants, the landless and near-landless, the armies of unwanted children in the cities and the urban unemployed. In Mdantsane poverty among children is most discernable especially those that are beneficiaries of CSG. Inside the township there are informal settlements where the majority of people are unemployed and have children to look after. Some children are abandoned by parents and are left with the elderly people. This is a crisis because one would wonder what the future holds for these children.

In order to deal with poverty which seems not to be the problem for the Eastern Cape and South Africa alone, it is essential to understand how the concept of poverty is defined by different authors. According to Johnsons et al (1997) defining poverty is difficult but can be described by selected economic, political and cultural theories. Johnsons and others suggest that poverty defined in economic terms, personal or political, family income becomes a determinant. If people have low income and experience difficulties to meet their basic needs compared to others, this becomes a societal problem that needs governmental intervention. For instance, in South Africa poverty can be partly attributed to the past social welfare policies which were

characterized by racial discrimination in the allocation of social resources. The majority of Blacks are unskilled which means that they have limited opportunities to skilled jobs. This shows that more needs to be done as far as children are concerned because they are the most affected. If these children become dropouts as early as primary school years, this will mean that another generation is going to be affected and a generation of the unskilled will be produced.

Johnson further describes poverty as a cultural or a racial problem. He states that two theories are behind such explanations which are the culture of poverty and the theory of racial inferiority. Lewis (1966) cited in Johnson et al. (1997) who have studied two cultures, namely, the Mexicans and the Puerto Ricans, indicates that poverty became the foundation of their culture. They developed norms and values that were different from the rest of the Hispanic Americans, that is, the Spanish speaking people. They believed that culture prevented them from escaping being poor. According to the racial inferiority theory people think they are genetically poor. Johnson however, argues that poor people are not born poor but the circumstances under which they are born make them poor. For instance, in South Africa it is not the case of colour in itself that people are poor, but it is because of the conditions caused by past policies of segregation which determined the allocation of resources according to race. The resources were distributed according to the Group Areas Act policy which privileged Whites in terms of social expenditure and the allocation of welfare benefits.

The issue of children and poverty is a problem that is vexing government through out the African continent. In Nigeria poverty drives children into child labour exploitation. Okpukpara (2006) is concerned with poverty in that country. In Nigeria a child is any person between the ages of 5 – 15 years. Children are employed with the aim of earning some income for their families. Poor households find it difficult to withdraw children from the labour market as they contribute to the household income. Obikeze (1986) also believes that the root cause of child labour in Nigeria is poverty and illiteracy which are caused by traditional customs like polygamy and large family sizes. Some children end up never attending any school and as a result there is a program called Nomadic Education Program designed for these children. This program caters for children whose parents are pastoral nomads and migrant fisher men who find it difficult to be enrolled in formal education because they work with their parents. According to Okpukpara et al (2006) UNICEF condemns child labour since it is interfering with the child's education and could be harmful to his social development.

In Morocco poverty is most prevalent in the rural areas. The forces behind poverty increase are unemployment and inequality (Guillaume 2005). It seems both aspects of unemployment and inequality are common issues in most of the African States. Even in South Africa most of those experiencing poverty are affected by both unemployment and inequality. What is affecting parents is also affecting the children. This implies that if government is to look at the welfare of children without looking at the social welfare of parents the CSG might end up catering for the whole family to the disadvantage the children for whom it is intended. In Morocco poverty among children who are below 15

years of age is higher compared to adults, the rates are 25% and 16% respectively (Guillaume 2005). Most of the poor families are headed by men compared to the Eastern Cape where most of the poor families are headed by women. This shows that poverty has no gender affiliation. In Morocco there is family allowance for the poor in which the poor children benefit. This is a cash transfer scheme which provides support for the families to raise their children. Guillaume is of the view that the social assistance programs which target the poor are not effective as compared to the number of the poor and needy population.

According to the Population and Human Resource Division (1995), the Kenya Poverty Assessment Report indicates that a third of households which is 44% headed by women are very poor compared to 21% of male headed households. The country is faced with gender inequality, whereby men favour to give their land to their sons than to their daughters. This gender inequality also appears in the schooling years of their children, where girls would dropout from primary school level. In rural areas it is rare even to find girls in secondary schools. Compared to Nigeria where there is a Nomadic Education Program for poor children who cannot attend formal education, in the case of Kenya girls who dropout of school will end becoming another generation of poor women like their mothers.

In the United States there is a program called Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), which is an assistance program for children. According to Whitaker and

Federico (1997) these are children where need is brought by the absence, death or unemployment of a parent. The program provides food, clothing, and shelter and it also provides children with transportation, fees, books or childcare. It is the prerogative of the program to decide the mode of support, whether the support will be childcare or food, clothing, shelter or other needs. Also the AFDC has authority to compel the absent parent to pay child support payment.

With all these efforts in addressing poverty in the lives of the children in these countries, reports show that poverty keeps on increasing, particularly in African countries. The majority of children in Africa are facing a bleak future of poor health, poor education and the probability of lack of employment.

2.6 Conclusion

In conclusion, it needs to be emphasized that, now that South Africa has a new government it is expected to look after all the citizens, it is important therefore for the country to be concerned with social development. According to Gray (1998) social development as a policy model has an egalitarian and humanistic vision of a society in which all people and social institutions should work together to eradicate poverty and injustice. As social development is concerned with solutions to poverty, there is a need of job creation in the country to fight the high rate of unemployment. At the same time there is a need for skills development programmes which will target the youth of the country and provide them with skills.

Kumar (1997) argues that social development cannot take place in a country characterized by injustice and lack of economic growth, whereby one will find a hierarchical structure of society comprising those who have and those who have not. There is a need therefore in South Africa to fight the imbalances of the past by providing help to the poor. This should not depend on the government only but civil society should be willing to give a hand to improve the lives of the children that are in poverty.

Kumar further argues that social development may not have immediate solutions since it is a long term planning based on investing on people, environment and the social system. This suggests that it is duty of the government to understand the social needs of a particular society as societal needs differ from society to society. He also suggests that there is a need of strategies to attack the root causes of the problem. The problem here is poverty and fighting unemployment is one strategy of dealing with the problem. Just like unemployment which needs to be fought, health as an indicator of social development needs to be taken into account. For instance, in the Eastern Cape there is a challenge of HIV/AIDS amongst the young children including those that are beneficiaries of the CSG. It can be assumed that the government may not be up to date with actual numbers that are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS since people are reluctant to know their status.

As South Africa has been characterized by a racial defined allocation of social welfare

under the apartheid government, there is, therefore, a need to look at social policy along with the economic policy in order not to repeat the imbalances of the past. Also there is a need to develop the Eastern Cape Province economically so that programs such as the CSG could be able to achieve their objectives of alleviating poverty among children in a sustainable manner.

This study therefore, shares the same views with Jones (1990) that poverty is mainly on certain groups like the armies of unwanted children in the cities and the urban unemployed. The armies of unwanted children in the cities are children who lack emotional care, accommodation, food and end up being street kids. This is also through for some of the CSG beneficiaries who have been abandoned by one or both parents while others are orphaned due to loss of their parents through HIV/AIDS and some need all the support they can get because their parents are facing unemployed.

Therefore, this study supports the institutional approach to welfare for South Africa. One major reason for this is that in the country, and especially in the poorest province such as the Eastern Cape, the conditions of poverty are deeply entrenched. There is a need for serious long term economic measures to address poverty in the province, not only among children but also other categories such as the aged, the disabled and women. Such measures for the eradication of poverty cannot take place in the short term, and therefore the need for government intervention along the lines of the institutional approach.

CHAPTER 3

THE CHILD SUPPORT GRANT

3.1 Introduction

According to the Department of Social Development, the CSG is a grant payable to a primary care-giver in respect of a child under the age of seven years or such higher age as the Minister may determine by notice in the Gazette. A primary care-giver is any person older than 16 years who takes the primary responsibility for the daily needs of the child and who may not necessarily be related to the child, this could either be a biological parent or a guardian. (Social Assistance Act No. 13 of 2004)

The legislation that controls this grant is the Social Assistance Act No. 59 of 1992 and the mandate is carried out by the Minister of Social Development. The CSG was introduced in 1998 replacing the former SMG which had two components, namely, the parental allowance and the child allowance. According to this grant the child who received it had to be in care of the natural parent, preferably the mother who could not afford to raise the child. Again, this grant was mostly enjoyed by Whites and their children while the Africans, Indians and Coloureds were discriminated against. For instance, according to the information by the Greater Johannesburg Welfare (1999), in 1983 Whites received a monthly allowance of R120, Coloureds and Indians R71 while the amount for Africans was unknown. Discrimination was not just in the amount received by the different races but the African women were denied access to the grant. It was impossible for African women to obtain information from the responsible

administrators as to what the means test was for them. After the democratic elections in 1994 the CSG was introduced by an Act which defines a child as any person under the age of 18 years, while the beneficiary focus group is 0 to 14 years for 2008.

3.2 Management of the CSG

The grant is managed by Social Security officials in the employment of the Department of Social Development. These officials are called SASSA as mentioned in the earlier chapters. SASSA is an agency which was established in terms of section 2 of Act No. 13 of 2004. The Agency is tasked with the responsibility to offer all reasonable assistance to a person who cannot read or write, is unable to understand or exercise his or her rights, duties or obligations in terms of the Act. The person should be able to use any of the official languages which he or she understands. The Agency is required to also publish and distribute to beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries brochures in all official languages of the Republic. The brochures must explain the rights, duties, obligations, procedures and mechanisms contemplated in the Act. Also the contact details of the Agency or anyone acting on its behalf should be available. (Social Assistance Act No. 13 of 2004)

According to the Department of Social Development the aim of the CSG is to target the poverty stricken children who are South African Citizens residing in South Africa. There are special conditions applicable to a person in receipt of the CSG. For instance, the child must have accommodation, be fed and clothed. The Agency must have

reasonable access to the child and the dwelling in which the child resides. The caregiver is required to ensure that the child receives immunization and other health services. Also he/she is required and expected to use the grant for the benefit of the child.

The Minister of Social Development mandated in terms of Act No. 9 of 1992, that a caregiver will be eligible for the CSG on behalf of all his or her own children or will be entitled to the grant to a maximum of six children if they are not his biological children. The CSG lapses on the last day of the month in which the child in respect of whom the grant is paid dies, or attains the age of 15 or is no longer in the custody of the primary care-giver. If the primary care-giver applies for the CSG in respect of a child whose grant has lapsed because he/she has attained the prescribed age, the Director General shall allow a shortened application process on a form approved for this purpose. (Social Assistance Act No.13 of 2004)

3.3 Means testing and the CSG

There are financial criteria that the primary care-giver should satisfy in order to receive the grant. The grant is a means tested program which states that the primary care-giver that resides in the rural areas should not be earning an income above R13 000 per annum while the primary-care giver that resides in urban areas should not be earning an income above R9 600 per annum. Other requirements are that the primary care giver should be in possession of a South African 13 bar-coded Identity Document with the

valid birth certificate as proof of the age of the child.

In South Africa, Social Assistance is subject to means testing, this means that SASSA evaluates the income and assets of the person applying for social assistance in order to determine whether the person's means are below the stipulated amount. Means testing, according to SASSA, is a way of determining whether a person qualifies to receive a grant as these are meant for those who most need them (Social Assistance Act No.13 of 2004). The means testing varies from one kind of grant to another. For instance, in the case of the CSG no asset test is needed, but the income of the applicants should meet the requirements of the upper limits stated. Asset and income test is done only with other types of grants such as the grants for the aged, the disabled or the war veterans.

3.4 Problems associated with the grant

There are some problems associated with the CSG which can be attributed to the general problem of poverty. Child poverty is a societal problem that is facing South Africa. Some of the problems are caused by the inability of the parents or primary care-givers to reach the social work offices where they have to apply for the grant on behalf of their children. For instance, at Mdantsane the social work offices are at Unit 11 and, for a parent who lives at Unit 14, to go from Unit 14 to Unit 11 the distance is approximately 2km. The means of transport is therefore needed. Most of the homes are far from the main road and most of the primary care-givers depend on public transport.

At the moment Mdantsane, like any other part in South Africa, has been experiencing high transportation costs due to high fuel prices. Therefore, most parents cannot afford the fare to these offices. This becomes a problem when the primary care-giver has to visit these offices for more than once because this happens often. This emanates mainly from the problem of identity documents of the children. In some cases where they have the right documents, these might not match with that of the care giver, who then has to go through a lengthy process of ascertaining his /her identity. In other cases the children might not even have identity documents. The problem of identity documents becomes an issue since some of these children are not looked after by their biological parents and therefore there is no match in their surnames. Furthermore children are also affected by transport costs. Their schools are far from their homes and they have to walk for miles to their schools. The CSG is not adequate enough to cover their monthly transport costs. For instance, the transport costs per month between the units of Mdantsane are between R120 and R200, and that is the reason why the parents have to let the children walk.

The intention of the Child Support Grant is to alleviate poverty among the poverty stricken children of South Africa. However, given the high cost of life in the township of Mdantsane, where prices for rented accommodation, food, electricity, residential rates, medication and school expenses are high on one hand, and with the high rate of unemployment on the other, the CSG in some cases ends up being a means of livelihood for the whole household. It is a norm for African people to live together with the unemployed extended family members in one four-roomed house. For instance, it is

common to find a household of more than five adults and children with only one breadwinner. In such situations, it will be impossible for all the needs of children to be met. In the case of food, such children are usually malnourished because they are not looked after properly. As a result, this tends to affect their educational performance because they have to go to school on empty stomachs. Again, it is not all the schools that have feeding schemes. Therefore, all of these factors mentioned above, contribute to child poverty because they militate against the intentions of the CSG.

It is one of the conditions of the CSG that the child should get medical attention when sick. Medication obtained from local clinics and hospitals is sometimes not enough or relevant to the patient's condition as it is a common problem not to get all medicines needed in these areas. Also the grant may not be adequate to cover medicines for the child since most of the children are victims of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Also there are speculations that the CSG is contributing towards teenage pregnancy. In clinics and social work offices it has become a norm to see more teenage moms visiting these areas. This means more children will be born from single mothers who cannot look after them financially and who themselves need to be cared for if these allegations are proven true. The grandparents who look after these young mothers and their children are either unemployed or earning meager wages or depending on old age grants. The majority of the young mothers are themselves unemployed, and have no skills to look for jobs. One of the reasons is that they are either uneducated or high

school dropouts.

Access (2004) is concerned with millions of poor children who are unable to access the CSG due to the age limit. From Access's point of view, the government does not fulfill its constitutional obligation to children. The argument here is that the children that are benefiting are those between 0 to 15 years (in 2008). The question is what is happening to those children that are between 15 and 18 years. According to the Social Assistance Act 59 of 1992, in South Africa a child is anybody from 0 – 18 years. Therefore these children are victims of discrimination.

3.5 Conclusion

As the CSG is for good intentions it is important for grant to look after its beneficiaries. Also the Agency should make it easier for the primary care-givers to access the grant so that every child that should benefit is registered. The Integrated Community Registration Outreach Program (ICROP) which SASSA uses in the rural areas for registration purposes should also be used in the townships. The people in the townships have the same problems of transportation to reach social work offices as that of the people in the rural areas.

CHAPTER 4

4.1 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1.1 Introduction

The qualitative approach was used to gather information. The reason was because the qualitative approach is a naturalistic inquiry where data collection had to discover the natural flow of events and processes and how participants interpret them. People talked about their knowledge and understanding of their world. The centre of discussion in this study was based on the CSG. A case study was used since the study is not about observing the participants as in the case of ethnography. The information was gathered from different participants, parents of Grade 7 learners from Siyavuya Senior Primary, young mothers who immunize their children at N.U. 16 clinic at Mdantsane and an official from SASSA in East London.

The CSG as poverty alleviation intervention has some requirements to fulfill as the policy mandates. There are special conditions that require the child to be fed, be clothed, school needs be paid, have proper accommodation and that the child be immunized. The study had to measure whether the CSG can cover all of the above-mentioned conditions given the problems that the community of Mdantsane is faced with, like income and unemployment, expenditure on food, expenditure on medication, conditions of accommodation, school needs, and even expenditure on electricity. Mdantsane is a large township found in the Eastern Cape Province with most of its citizens coming from the rural areas in search of work in the nearby city of East London.

Shand (1998) estimates the population of Mdantsane to be ranging from 180 000 to 720 000 people. According to Statistics South Africa (2001) the total population of Mdantsane was 211 587 during this period. From this population a total of 54 457 was unemployed during this period with 46% of males and 54% of females. This is a disadvantaged community which is placed far from the places of work. Access to taxis, buses and trains for most of Mdantsane residents is not easy. The majority of the population falls within the lower income brackets. Few people have access to private means of transport and most people rely on public transport to access areas where better goods and services can be obtained.

In Mdantsane some children are orphans living with grand parents due to the impact of HIV and AIDS. Some have been abandoned by one or both parents and as a result it is common to find these children being breadwinners themselves. In other cases the girl children end up having babies at a tender age of fourteen years. All these children are the intended beneficiaries targeted by the CSG because they are all poverty stricken.

4.1.2 Sample Size

The parents and primary care-givers of learners from Siyavuya Senior Primary in Mdantsane were the sample from which findings were generalized. These learners that were participating in the study were between 12 and 14 years old because these are the ages which are found in grade 7 in Siyavuya Senior Primary. This is a part of the group targeted by the child support grant while the main focus group is 0 to 15 years. Young

mothers who attend at the N.U. 16 clinic in Mdantsane for the immunization purpose of their young children were also a sample for the purpose of getting information on behalf of children younger than 10 years. The sample also included an official from the South African Social Security Agency based in the Regional Office's Customer Care Grant Administration unit, responsible for all the administration purposes of the grant.

4.1.3 Instruments of data collection

Unstructured interviews and questionnaires were used. The interviewees were able to use their own words and they spoke of what was in their thoughts regarding the CSG. This was a one to one interview. The interviewees were young mothers who receive the CSG on behalf of their babies. The researcher informed them that the study was non-governmental as they first seemed reluctant to get involved as a result of fear to lose the grant. A group of 30 young mothers that immunize their children at N.U. 16 clinic in Mdantsane were the interviewees. These people were part of the sample chosen for the study because they had all characteristics of the population, that is, the people that receive CSG on behalf of their children. Also using these young mothers was an advantage since they all could be found in the same area. Also, five older women wanted to be part of the study as they felt that they were also affected by CSG through their grand children they are looking after. They were also included as they were willing to participate in the interviews. The concern of the study was to find out how these young women and care givers manage to bring up their babies on the CSG.

Questionnaires were used to collect information from parents or primary care-givers who receive the CSG on behalf of the learners that attend at Siyavuya Senior Primary. The information received was used to determine the extent of the benefit the learners derive from the CSG. These were postal type questionnaires although they were not actually posted. The questionnaires were sent home through the learners from the school for their parents and care-givers to answer. A deadline of two weeks was given for questionnaires to be returned. Fifty learners were targeted for the study. The questionnaires were confidential in the sense that they did not require any identity of the respondent, nothing was required of their names, and addresses. The questions were based on facts and opinions. For instance information was required on their children's ages, gender, and the number of children who receive the grant and those who do not in the same household. Also the information on the household income and expenditure was requested. There were questions that allowed them to respond about their feelings concerning the CSG and its conditions and whether it was making any difference in the lives of the children. Open questions allowed the respondents to decide on the wording and length of their answers. The closed-ended questions were restricted to two options of Yes or No. This was done to limit respondents in order not to give unnecessary information.

4.1.4 Units of analysis

- Parents

There were fifty parents and primary care-givers of children who participated as units of analysis. Data was collected through questionnaires in order to find out whether the CSG was used accordingly and whether the children were benefiting as per the intentions of the policy.

- Young mothers

Thirty young mothers who receive the CSG on behalf of their babies were interviewed. Also five older women or grand parents became part of the interviews voluntarily. The focus was whether the CSG was adequately meeting the needs and whether it was really making a difference.

- SASSA Official

An official from the Regional Office's Customer Care was interviewed. The aim of the interview was to find out how the agency was managing the grant, and also what their view was in terms of the grant achieving its objectives of alleviating poverty.

4.1.5 Data collection

The questions on the interviews as well as questionnaires were concerned with the issues of the CSG and poverty as discussed in the problem statement. Data therefore was collected by interacting with the selected participants as mentioned above. The

study also made use of government documents, reports, books and internet searches as forms of secondary sources of information. The information is to help complement the fieldwork.

4.1.6 Data Analysis

Qualitative data analysis was used for analyzing data. Data were analyzed throughout the study. Early analysis was used so that the researcher can go back and forth through the data she already have so that if there is any need of clarity of issues, revisit the places concerned in time. The data was collected and analyzed in terms of the three units of analysis identified above, namely, parents, young mothers and the SASSA official. The researcher used tables to present data from parents and young mothers and these can be found in appendices. The information gathered from parents is complemented by information from the interviews with young mothers. The data was analyzed manually since the number of respondents was manageable. As the questionnaire was divided into sections, the researcher grouped questions as those related to household members, to expenditure, and to general questions.

4.2 RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.2.1 Introduction

The research findings are based on the responses that were found through the questionnaire that were answered by 50 parents of learners from Siyavuya Senior Primary School and interviews that were carried out with 30 young mothers and 5 older women who immunize their children at N.U. 16 clinic. There are also responses of one official from SASSA on the monitoring and management of the grant. The tabular

representations are found on appendices in the form of tables. The questionnaires and the interviews were based on the ability of the CSG to meet expenditure on food, medication, accommodation, school needs and electricity, given the problem of income and unemployment in Mdantsane,

4.2.2 Responses on income and unemployment

- Parents

Appendix 1, Table 1(a) indicates that 91 children in the study depend on the CSG. State pension grant is also another source of income as there are many persons receiving this grant. The number of 11 labourers, 10 domestic workers and 7 civil servants indicate that few people are employed in this area. The table indicates that unemployment is the highest compared to the sources of income while the state pension grant and the CSG seem to be the main sources of livelihood to these households. Parents see the grant as a great move by the government because unemployed sincerely they are, at the end of the month they have something to look forward to. This indicates that these households depend either on the CSG or on the state pension grant.

As the people are unemployed and are sometimes unable to look after their children, they see the CSG as a good intervention by government. However, they feel that the CSG needs to be increased as they are unemployed and there is nothing to supplement it. It is also their feeling that government needs to create jobs because they also depend on the CSG. This would help to provide supplementary and income the CSG can do

what it is intended for. Some parents ask from money lenders loans they do not afford to pay back even with the grant. To them asking for loans from money lenders is a solution of meeting those needs that cannot be met by the grant. The banks cannot loan them since they are unemployed. Therefore it is their feeling that government can loan them to start small business that will help them pay for the things the grant cannot pay such as electricity.

It is the general feeling that the grant should extend to 18 years, because the children are growing while the parents are unemployed and cannot afford to pay for their needs. People tend to lie to neighbours and friends in order to get money because the relatives that support them are tired of looking after them. Sometimes their neighbours are just like them, unemployed and need support too.

- Young mothers

From the interviewees at N.U. 16 clinic, some of the young mothers are single are still living with and depending on their parents for emotional and financial support. Some of the reasons given are that they do not have enough education and skills to look for jobs. Where others have some education job opportunities become a problem. For those who have jobs, these are sometimes on contract basis which means that they are not permanent. When the contract expires the person has to start again to look for another job. It is not easy to look for a job when one has inadequate education. In these households some of the grand parents are beneficiaries of the state pension grant while others have not yet reached at age. These senior citizens do not enjoy their pension grants as they look after the grand children and whole family. To those who are married, unemployment and poverty have even made their husbands abusive towards them as

they demand their share on their children's CSG. They tend to forget that the CSG is about the child.

From the interviewees there was one domestic worker who works at. She is not old enough to get state pension grant. The money she earns which is R300 a month is almost equal to the grant. Her family depends on this money and the grant of one child. They get relatives support but not often as they have children to look after.

4.2.3 Expenditure on food

- Parents

Appendix 3, Table 2 (a) shows that most of the respondents' food groceries are bought for between R200 and R500 per month. This could be true as these households seem to be dependent on government intervention in the form of grants. This also indicates that the needs of the beneficiaries of the CSG could not be all met if the amount of grant is close to the expenditure of food. Parents do not afford to buy food as they did not afford even before food prices in 2008. One of the reasons is their family arrangements. They live as extended families with more adults that are unemployed. The focus is then shifted from looking after children to adults. Even the way of buying food is focused on adults. The children's soft foods are taken as luxury. As a result the children's physical development is weak. This results in the children not participating in sport. The children are not well fed. Also their academic performance is affected by this.

It is the general feeling of the parents that government should introduce food parcels as the grant is inadequate to pay for all the needs of the child. These could be controlled in clinics or rent offices. Also feeding schemes should be introduced in schools both in primary and high schools. The children in both levels are usually from the same household. They need the food the same way.

- Young mothers

From the responses in Appendix 3, Table 2 (b), the respondents buy their food mostly between R200 and R500. This expenditure is not enough looking at their household arrangements in which they live as extended families. That is why most of the respondents from the interviews said they cannot afford to buy adequate food. This was the case even before the increase in food prices in 2008. Their food supply does not make it to the next grant. As a result of this they have to borrow money from unregistered money lenders who charge them high interest rate of between 20% and 50%. They have to pay back with the grant which becomes a recurring circle. It is their wish that government could supply them with food parcels along with grant, so that the grant could pay for other needs. Also, since other young mothers, parents, or primary care-givers are unemployed, and others are still too young to apply for the state pension grant, they feel that government should consider providing them with a special grant to help them until such time that they are employed. The mothers and care-givers also feel that the school feeding schemes should be extended from primary schools to high schools. They argue that hunger is the same for every age group of children. Some pointed out that for some children, the meal that they get at school is their last for the day.

A 37% of young women do not fall in any category of food expenditure as Appendix 3, Table 2(b) indicates. As the young women are unemployed they see the grant as an opportunity to do their affairs. Instead of looking after their own children they pay for their own needs. That is why they rely on their parents and family for support.

4.2.4 Expenditure on medication

- Parents

As the responses indicate most respondents buy their medicines for between R50 and R150 Appendix 3, Table 3(a). Other respondents depend only on the clinic and hospital supplies because they cannot afford to buy medicines from pharmacies or to visit general practitioners. The 37% of parents say their incomes are unstable as they sometimes get domestic jobs. However, they are happy with grant because they can buy medicines from the chemist and go to the clinic for immunization of their children as it is free. The clinics do not offer so much help as they have poor supplies of medicines so the grant help them to get medicines they cannot get from clinics. Also the hospitals do not offer much help as they too have poor supplies of medicines. They feel government and the Department of Health have to do something about this problem as there is little help offered by these areas and many people depend on them.

- Young mothers

According to Appendix 3, Table 3 (b) these women depend more on the clinics and hospitals for medication even though these areas are known for having poor medical supplies. The clinics supply people with panado pills or syrup and also if the young

woman wants to take her child to the hospital she should obtain a referral letter from the clinic. Even there at the hospital there is not much help as they also have poor medicine supplies like the clinics. Some women indicated that they buy medicines from chemists but they cannot afford to visit general practitioners. There are those who cannot afford at all to buy from the chemist or to consult a general practitioner. Among these there are those who are also unhappy with the clinic and hospital services. These depend on the help of traditional roots because they feel that these forms of medication are still the cheapest. Young mothers are happy with the immunization of their babies because it is free. There is a general feeling that government should provide general practitioners that will be paid by the state and could that visit the clinics at least twice a week.

4.2.5 Conditions of accommodation

- Parents

From the parents' responses most people live in 4roomed houses or 2 bedroomed houses. The reason is because Mdantsane's houses are mainly 4 roomed houses and this was the plan designed by the apartheid government for the black people. These houses are mostly overcrowded because primary care-givers live with their extended family members. The children are easily affected by diseases like tuberculosis as a result of overcrowding. 23% respondents did not indicate the type of houses they live in. One of the reasons may be that, the learners are uncomfortable to be identified as living in the informal settlements, because that indicates the extent of their poverty. Informal settlements are areas that are mainly identified by shacks. These are not safe

environments for raising children. The children are exposed to different kinds of danger such as street violence, substance abuse and burglary. There are even frequent fires that occur in these areas whereby a family loses everything and life is lost during these fires.

- Young mothers

Also some the young mothers live in these informal settlements because they cannot afford to buy houses due to unemployment conditions. That is why some are still living with their parents. From Appendix 3, Table 4 (b) the responses on 1 roomed house and 2 roomed houses indicate that these young women do live in informal settlements. Again the reason behind this is unemployment as a result of inadequate skills, lack of education and employment opportunities. These people are unable to rent proper accommodation as they will not afford to pay the rentals. This is another reason for them to resort to the informal settlements even though they know are not safe areas to raise the children. They say the grant is inadequate for rentals as the rentals per month range between R250 and R800 in the 4 roomed houses.

4.2.6 School needs

- Parents

Referring to Appendix 3 Table 5 (a) responses indicate that parents do afford to pay school needs. However, this does not seem to be a true reflection especially for the learners at Siyavuya Senior Primary Schools. Some of these learners' uniforms are hand made by unregistered dressmakers. This causes the learners to be trouble with

the school authorities as they are required to buy the school uniform from Ciskei Uniforms only. The type of jersey, socks, and tunic that represent Siyavuya are only sold by Ciskei Uniforms. Other retailers do not sell exactly the material and colour that represent this school and any imitative is not accepted. The parents continue to buy from dressmakers because they do not afford to buy from Ciskei Uniforms. Parents are not with paying school development fees and school fees. For instance in Siyavuya the school fees is R100 a year but this amount is always overdue. That is why there is a general feeling that government should offer free education.

- Young mothers

The young mothers stated that they were not happy with the payment of school fees because they end up owing unlicensed money lenders that charge high interest rates. Although the higher responses of 44% give the assumption that all school needs are paid, this does not mean that they are affording. These fees are usually overdue. For instance, in Siyavuya, the school fees of R100 per learner a year, take six to eight months to be paid. One parent was depressed because she could not get her child's school report for she had not paid her fees. The parents therefore wish that the government could pay all school needs such uniforms, stationery, school fees and school development fund. In other words, they would like to see free education for their children so that the CSG could be used to meet other needs.

4.2.7 Expenditure on clothes

On the question of clothes, all the respondents in both categories of parents and young mothers have indicated that they do not afford to buy clothes as often as needed. They buy from clothing shops once a year. They cannot even take advantage of the available credit facilities in city shops because they say they would not be able to pay as the grant is not adequate. In Mdantsane there are outlets that sell used clothes from overseas countries around the township for very low prices. The primary care-givers buy these clothes for their children on credit and pay later with the CSG.

4.2.8 Expenditure on electricity

- Parents

Appendix 3 in Table 6 (a) shows that parents can afford to buy electricity at an amount which is between R50 and R150. They cannot buy for more than R150 as the responses indicate. This amount is not enough for a month to cover cooking, ironing, lighting, and connection of other electrical appliances. When their energy is over they resort to paraffin though it also expensive on its own. They appreciate government for sponsored electricity which runs on for lights for a month. 22% of households use electricity for lights and radio only and they are used to that because they do not afford to pay municipality accounts

- Young mothers

As shown in Appendix 3 Table 6 (b), the young mothers indicate that they do buy electricity for between R50 and R150. They commented that this amount is insufficient

to provide electricity for the whole month as it gets finished before the month end. As a result they depend on the sponsored electricity which is supplied by the municipality. The sponsored electricity is given to the purchaser once a month. This electricity is only enough for the lighting and not for cooking.

Both parents and young mothers are appreciative to government for the sponsored electricity. This electricity gives their homes an opportunity to be lighted for a month. The young mothers reported that sometimes the electricity is blocked by the municipality if their accounts are not up to date. That is why they have to use the CSG for electricity. In the informal settlements they resort to cook the traditionally way in whereby they make use of woods. This is the form of saving their sponsored electricity.

4.2.9 Transportation

To both the parents and young mothers, transportation costs are an issue. Transport expenditure is not fixed as their incomes are not fixed. It varies from household to household and from month to month. Some of the reasons for transport include looking for jobs, visiting hospitals or going to work for those who have contract jobs and fares to schools for those who do afford. But for Siyavuya S.P. learners they walk to schools. Transport costs are a problem because people cannot afford the taxi fares around the township. There buses are the cheapest mode of transport. In Mdantsane there are no buses that move around the township since 1990. People can afford to go to town once a month. As a result it is hard for them to look for jobs in East London. There are no school buses for children that mean those who have to use transport make use of the

taxi. Many parents do not that is the children have to walk to school no matter how long the distance is.

4.2.10 General information on household members.

Appendix 4 is a summary of household members from both the 50 parents and the 35 interviewees. From this summary, it is indicated there are more the children between 0 and 15 years. This shows that the more the children the more grant will be received on their behalf. Also the number of the people above 60 years old indicates that these people have a contribution towards their families' income. All these people stated that they do not afford much. To make ends meet they have to lie sometime by borrowing money and promising to pay by the grant. They borrow food and money most of their time from their relatives, neighbours and friends. They do not even afford to pay for their children' school needs. For instance, they cannot buy their children' uniform and make use of dressmakers. Also the fees are not paid on time they are always overdue. They desperately need food parcels. They also feel that public schools should become no-fee schools. They feel strongly that government should introduce a special grant for those not yet 60 years old and also for the middle aged that cannot be employed on the grounds of age but at the same time not old enough to qualify for the state pension grant.

4.2.11 The SASSA official

The questions were more concerned with the monitoring of the grant and its management. According to the respondent, monitoring is done on request by social workers when and if such cases are reported to the SASSA offices. In addition, a report might be received from an anonymous call or as a result of a home visit by a SASSA official. A statement of the report is recorded for reference purposes to other similar cases that may occur in the future. The procedure involved in the handling of the reported case starts with the official who receives the anonymous call. In these cases, the reporter does not mention his or her name for his or her own safety. The date and the time of the call is written down. The official then asks for the initials and surname of the culprit, where he/she works, his/her home address if known to the reporter. Also the child's name and surname will be recorded. The official will then verify if the care-giver appears in their Socpen system. This is the system in which the CSG beneficiaries appear. After verification all the information about the person and the beneficiary is printed. With the help of the manager, the information will be corrected and edited then signed by the official who is handling the case. The report is then sent to the Compliance and Fraud unit of SASSA. At that point the official will be left with his or her copy of the report. An investigation begins by the Compliance and Fraud Unit and the police. When the person is found guilty the grant is terminated immediately. The person has to pay back the money by depositing it in terms to the Compliance and Fraud Unit. Most of the beneficiaries who are involved in these cases are deceased children. In some instances there would be no such child at all, in other cases the child would not be living with the person who receives the grant. These cases have mostly been

committed by people who are working in government departments.

Only social workers visit homes on request, especially when there are cases of misuse reported to the officials. When the social worker visits a home, he/she may request proof of expenditure, and if he/she is not satisfied with the evidence he/she may make a recommendation for an alternative primary care-giver to receive the grant. If the primary care-giver fails to produce proofs of expenditure such as invoices, the social worker may do a school visit to ask for invoices of fees payments.

In terms of the role of the management, the official pointed out that SASSA sees to it that the qualifying applicants are registered and the money is paid to them at pay points or through the banks. The qualifying applicants are those between 0 and 15 years. Also for them to qualify it depends on the financial criteria which the parent or care-giver should satisfy. The financial criteria is determined by the means test which states that the care-giver who resides in the rural areas should not be earning an income above R13 000 per annum. Again the care-giver who resides in the urban areas should not be earning an income above R9 600. For an applicant to be registered, he/she should be a South African resident and be in possession of a valid SA identity document. However, on June 2008 the Minister of Social Development made an announcement that SASSA will accept sworn affidavits made before the commissioner of oaths. The grant is applied in the SASSA offices nearest to the applicant's place of residence. If the applicant does not meet all these requirements, the application will be turned down and he/she will be

notified will by phone or by post.

SASSA does not have their own social workers therefore it is difficult for them to monitor the grant as they depend on monitoring and feedback. It is difficult for them to know what is happening to the children or whether the grant is used according to child's needs. Monitoring is basically conducted by the social workers.

A social worker who has done a house call may give a home visit report. In order to improve the situation of the child the social worker may recommend that vouchers be given to the primary care-giver in the stead of cash. The social worker who is dealing with such a case is the one with the final decision in terms of the issuing of vouchers. The same case happens when the grant should be withdrawn from a primary care-giver because he/she is not meeting the expectations of the agency towards the use of the grant. The social worker is the one with the final decision and SASSA has to do accordingly. In such cases it is required that a social worker accompanies the care-giver on buying trips in order to ensure that the affected child or children get the necessary materials especially food, clothing and school needs.

SASSA believes that the grant money is not adequate in some instances to cater for the needs of the children. This is so particularly in terms of their ages and the commitments of the primary care-givers. For instance, there are differences in the needs of a new

born compared to a school-going age child. As the child grows up so his/her needs such as food, school needs, transport, clothes and medication. In the case of the primary care-giver the CSG becomes more inadequate when he/she has other commitments such as looking after other relative's children who are not beneficiaries of the CSG and also to other unemployed adults that live within the household.

In terms of appropriate accommodation, it is required that the environment be safe and in clean and sanitary conditions. Cleanliness should be observed and it should be safe for the child to play around. Even if the type of accommodation is a shack in the informal settlements, it is required that the child must be safe. In the case of accommodation being inappropriate such as when the building and health hazards are there. In most instances accommodation is inappropriate when the care-giver is an alcoholic and domestic violence is the order of the day. Also when the child is always dirty and does not go to school. This will mean the child will be vulnerable to diseases.

There are instances where primary care-givers are looking after relative's children instead of the registered beneficiaries as the majority of the people in Mdantsane live in their households with family member's children, some of whom are orphans of HIV/AIDS or are just abandoned by their parents. Some of these should be the beneficiaries of CSG according to their ages but they are not due to many problems such as lack of proper documentation needed by SASSA. According to the new developments in the Department of Social Development the care-giver may bring a

sworn affidavit if the child and the care-giver have different surnames whereby the care-giver is not the biological parent of the child. If still on the first-prescreening the information on the applicant is not enough he/she will be notified. The application will be processed when all the information regarding the child and the care-giver is there. This is also the part to safe guard against fraud.

The issue of lack of proper documentation for identification in order to access the CSG seems to be a serious problem as has also been reported in the news media.

4.2.12 News Paper Reports

A report in the Sunday Times (of 2nd March 2008) carried a story on the situation of three children who live at Endulini, a village near Willowvale in the Eastern Cape whose parents died in 2004 when they were 9 years, 4 years and 1 year old respectively. They do not have birth certificates and as a result they cannot register to receive the CSG. They are looked after by their 20 year old aunt who is unemployed and does not have an identity document. They survive on a R300 a month support by their uncle who is a migrant worker. These children are attending school at Bikani Junior Secondary School. A school teacher from this school indicates that these children are not alone in their struggle. Of the 365 pupils in this school from grade R to grade 7, a total of 102 are AIDS orphans. Only 131 pupils receive the child support grant. The report states that although the Minister of Social Development declared 2002 as the “Children First year”, 6 years after this declaration there are still children who do not benefit from the CSG. The children are facing poverty because they have no identity documents. This is

known to be happening to many other children in South Africa. The majority of these children are looked after by grand parents. The parents have either died, mostly through HIV/AIDS or they have just abandoned them.

The above is true for some of the groups of children in Mdantsane Township. Mdantsane Township is a disadvantaged community which is affected by unemployment. According to Statistics South Africa (2001) 46% of males and 54% of females were unemployed during this period. According to Bank (2007), in 2001 Buffalo City embarked on a study called a Quality of Life Assessment for Mdantsane Township. The results showed that there was poverty and dissatisfaction throughout the township. Only 22% of household members between 15 and 65 years were actually employed (Bank 2007). In South Africa a child is any person from 0 to 18 years old. A follow up study of 2007 suggests some satisfaction in the lives of people of Mdantsane as a result of some developments that are taking place in the township, however, the study does not say anything about changes in the household members that are employed, especially in terms of members of households less than 18 years.

In another report in the Sunday Times, from a study conducted by the Human Science Resource Council (HSRC), 81% of children in the country experience income and material deprivation, more than 50% live in households where nobody is employed, 24% are in wrong grades and 6% are not at school, while 25% live in households without both parents or in child-headed homes. The children from Mdantsane are part of

this statistics. It could be deduced that even those who are beneficiaries of the CSG might not be adequately benefiting from the grant due to the high rate of unemployment. Inadequate nourishment and care have a negative impact on the educational performance of these children, hence the repetition of grades as mentioned elsewhere in the dissertation.

Again the HRSC (2007) published a report stating that a million people in South are forced to make an existence on less than R400 a month while the very poorest are forced to get by on only R60 a month. For instance, in Mdantsane most of the residents are unemployed while they live as extended families. In these households it is possible to find one breadwinner who depends on domestic jobs. That is why in these cases the CSG is used as household income. Also the report shows that a quarter of South African children is seriously malnourished. One of the reasons is because children cannot get nutritional food based on the conditions of unemployment back at home. Nutritional food is the basis of all education in the lives of children. When these children go to school on empty stomachs their education is affected. This is one of these reasons of school dropouts which results in the country's future faced with large numbers of unskilled workers.

The report also states that HIV/AIDS pandemic results in children being left with no parents. For instance, in Siyavuya S.P. there are children who are beneficiaries of the CSG, 60% of whom have lost one or both parents. The majority of these children are

left in the care of grand parents. Some of these grand parents are too old to see to it that the children get all the necessary things like dressing properly that school needs are up to date, that the children get all vaccination and medication they need and that they get the nutritional food needed by their conditions. As a result, it is not easy for these children to follow a balanced recommended diet by clinics and practitioners.

Since the country is faced with poverty, the CSG seems to have had good intentions for South African children in order to make life manageable. However, something more needs to be done as it seems that the CSG effort is overshadowed by the multiple problems outlined above.

In conclusion it is evident that poverty is a reality in South Africa as it is indicated in the different reports that have been released and from this study. As much as the CSG is for good intentions towards alleviating poverty, there are still children who are left out of the system and at the same time some are not looked after properly at their homes because of the extended family arrangements and other intervening problems as outlined. It is vital for the government to find ways of supplementing the CSG so that these children do not become what Jones (1990) referred to as armies of unwanted children in the cities. There are already many street children that roam around and that needs to be prevented by seeing to it that the beneficiaries of CSG are met.

CHAPTER 5

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter is concerned with the causes that prevent the CSG from fulfilling its intended outcomes. Analysis and discussions will be based on unemployment, food, transport, accommodation medical care, education and SASSA as these issues had been discussed in the research findings. Also the findings will be used for further explanation.

5.2 Unemployment as the driving force behind poverty

One of the causes that result in children being impoverished even though they receive the CSG is unemployment of the care-givers. Mdantsane Township as a residential area was situated in such a way that people would be far from the sources of employment. For instance, the big motor industry, like Daimler Chrysler which is situated in East London is 25km kilometers from Madnantsane. Employment there involves high transportation costs which become an obstacle for some people. Daimler Chrysler is used as example because most of primary care givers of the beneficiaries of the CSG have inadequate education, therefore these industries are sources of job opportunities. That is why the CSG beneficiaries should be encourage to get education that would earn them a place in the society, and that will open doors for them to different kinds of job opportunities, to break the cycle of dependency on the CSG and to

enable their own children not to be beneficiaries of the CSG.

Although there are developments that are taking place in Mdantsane, these do not mean that unemployed young people with or without education can get job opportunities at the moment. These developments are of limited period and are not enough to cater for most unemployed people. There is a shopping mall that took less than a year to build. The people who were employed in the construction of this mall are jobless today because the project has been completed. Again, the people who are employed in the shops are the people who were workers of the same shops in other areas around East London. The job opportunities inside these shops are not available to the majority of the people of Mdantsane.

Given the state of unemployment in Mdantsane, the CSG becomes the source of livelihood in many households as the findings indicated. The children become the sources of claiming the grant from government as some of their parents or care-givers are not old enough to apply for the state pension grant. For instance out of 50 households, 91 children are beneficiaries of the CSG and out of 35 young mothers 41 children are also beneficiaries.

In some instances, this results in family violence where parents and family members get into arguments as to who should receive the grant on behalf of the child. There are

occasions where both the mother and the daughter would be fighting about who should be receiving the grant because most of the time these beneficiaries are looked after by grand parents since they are usually abandoned by their own parents.

5.3 Inadequate feeding resulting in poor school performance

The extended family arrangement in Mdantsane whereby people live with relation makes it difficult for children to get adequate nutrition. Although the purpose of the CSG is to alleviate poverty among children, this becomes difficult for the beneficiaries of the CSG as the grant becomes the source of livelihood for the household. This study has found that the majority of care-givers argue that feeding schemes should be introduced back in schools. It also is a fact that for some children the meal that they get at school is sometimes the last for the day. The CSG is inadequate to make groceries that will last for a month. If the care-giver does not have any other source of income, it this results in children being malnourished because they do not get adequate nutritional food. This tends to affect their educational performance because they go to school on empty stomachs. In this way the children also become vulnerable to different kinds of diseases. Not all schools supply children with food schemes. For instance, Siyavuya Senior Primary does not have a feeding scheme and the majority of the children come from the informal settlements and the township where unemployment is rife. Unemployment indicates that some households cannot make ends meet. As the children spend most of their time at school it is important therefore that government should return feeding schemes, not only to the primary schools but also to the high

schools. The reason is because most of the children from both primary and high schools usually come from the same households with the problem of poverty.

5.4 Transport expenses contributing to poverty

Concerning transportation costs, most of learners from Siyavuya Primary are from the part of the township where they have to walk approximately a kilometer to school. Care-givers cannot afford monthly taxi fares. There are no buses that move around in the township since the political turmoil that took place in the township in 1990. The bus fares were affordable compared to the taxis during that period. The long distances that the children have to walk expose them to violence and to all sorts of danger in the street. Also, transportation should not be a problem for care-givers that want to apply for new beneficiaries. The Department of Social Development should make some means for these people as it was indicated that they do not afford to reach the social work offices. The children that are supposed to receive the grant should not suffer because their care givers cannot reach the offices.

5.5 Everybody needs a safe environment

Mdantsane has numerous informal settlements in which it is common to find a whole family of five adults and seven children dwelling in a one or two roomed shack. Most of the CSG beneficiaries are found in these areas. These are not safe environments to grow young children as they are exposed to a variety of disturbing things such as

substance abuse and violent behaviours. These things happen before their very eyes which sometimes leave them emotionally disturbed. All these issues come to affect their school performance. As appropriate accommodation is one of the conditions that the primary care-giver should adhere to, many primary care-givers could lose their access to the CSG as many of these homes are not fit to be people's homes. The physical appearance of these homes imposes danger to the safety of these children. They can be easily destroyed or washed away by floods. The Department of housing is doing a good job because many people have RDP houses but there are still those that are left out, which means there is an urgent need to speed up the process for the sake of the children.

5.6 Insufficiency of medical care

Mdantsane is divided into 18 sections called units and every unit has a clinic which is nearer to the people. In addition, there is a state hospital where all different kinds of diseases are treated. There is also the Nkqubela Hospital for tuberculosis. From the research it is clear that there are insufficient medicines available in these health institutions. This is a governmental issue which needs the attention of the Department of Health. It has been some time since this has been a problem. Also the hospitals' care is not up to standard, people are always complaining. These hospitals need renovation, there are problems of overcrowding and shortages of staff personnel which result in long queues. Also the death of infants is rife. Those who are members of medical aid schemes are the safest in the township. They can take their children to hospitals in East

London that have better facilities. In these circumstances the CSG beneficiaries have to accept whatever assistance they get because the grant is inadequate to take them anywhere and cannot pay for these expensive well-equipped hospitals. For instance, if a CSG beneficiary has to see a general practitioner once in a month, 60% of the grant will be used leaving other needs unmet as the remaining 40% which is R80 will not suffice. This is another situation which needs government's attention.

5.7 Education as a right

In South Africa it is the constitutional right of every child to go to school. The children who are privileged get better education from well-equipped schools while the children like the beneficiaries of the CSG have to suffer under education conditions that are not resourceful. For instance, if Siyavuya is to be used as an example, there are no resources such as the library, no laboratory, and no different equipped play grounds for different sports codes. That is what Brynard (2006) sees as a situation of poverty linked to the parents' economic situation. If the parent earns less income this determines the kind of education that the child will get. This is the reason why all the respondents are in favour of the no-fee education.

In addition to the hardships of education, there are other things that need to be taken care of such as payment of water, rates, electricity, and rent. This expenditure is on a monthly basis. This explains the reason why in some homes where there is no one who is employed the household has to go on without electricity. We cannot runaway from the

fact that the CSG has become a source of livelihood in other households. Mdantsane is faced with poverty, a few elite groups of households that live there are no proofs that life is manageable in this township.

5.8 SASSA as an agency

For SASSA the issue of monitoring seems to be a problem. SASSA waits until there is a problem that is reported to them. This should not be the case. SASSA officials need to follow the lives of these children, to unearth the different problems these children are faced with. They seem to be concerned more with the misuse of grant, and overlook problems like physical abuse against the children within their households. Also the social workers seem not be doing enough. They should not wait for SASSA to report a case that need to be followed. The social workers should be hands on with the school

To conclude, the CSG has good intentions but some evaluation needs to be done to find out if it is really up to its intention as the government indicates. Considering all the conditions attached to it that involves feeding the child, having accommodation, paying for school needs, buying clothes, medication and being immunized the CSG seems inadequate.

Living in a township is expensive and expenditure does not end with the above mentioned expenses. There are other things that need to be paid like electricity, water and transport considering these expenditures are on a monthly basis.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

Since 1994 people in SA have had high hopes, more especially the African. The hope was that government would make their lives different. Democracy to them was seen as a solution to their daily problems that they have had to face on a daily basis. Mdantsane therefore is also one of the areas with people that are looking to the government for change and solution in their fight against poverty.

It is also true that government has done its share for the past 15 years to improve the lives of the people, however, it seems not to be enough especially for the vulnerable group of society, the poor children. Although the CSG is for good intentions for the children of South Africa, however, it seems to be battling to achieve this aim. One of the major problems is unemployment of the parents and care-givers which makes the lives of children difficult. As a result, people depend on these grants for livelihood. For instance, in Mdantsane people live as extended families with unemployed adults, it is therefore possible for people to look forward to the children's grants. Unemployment is accompanied by inadequate education and lack of skills especially among the groups of people who are not in a position to apply for pension grants.

As education is a right to all children, it would help these children for government to make public schools the no-fee schools on behalf of the CSG beneficiaries. It is

important for these children to get education that will enable them to live fulfilling lives. Government should also go another mile to make these schools attractive by developing facilities such as libraries and computer rooms. South Africa as a developing country needs responsible citizens who will make a difference in the countrys economy. For these children to be responsible adults, education forms the part of their personalities. As indicated from the findings it is difficult for the CSG to meet needs of the beneficiaries that are meant to be covered by the grant. This shows that government intervention is seriously needed.

Also as far as food is concerned the findings indicate that people look towards the CSG as a source of livelihood. If the whole family depends on the grant, it goes without say that the grant will be inadequate for the other needs of the child. From the findings it is reported people want feeding schemes to be introduced in schools as it is indicated that for some children the meal they get at school is their last for the day. For some children it could be motivational to come to school as they have something to look forward to. Also, there is no child who can learn anything on an empty stomach.

The informal settlements that are found everywhere in Mdantsane and also anywhere in South Africa are an indication of poverty in the country. The beneficiaries of the CSG living in these areas are most vulnerable children in the country. This shows that if the CSG is to be used also for accommodation purposes it is failing these children because the informal settlements are not safe for raising children. This means that people are in

need of houses and the Department of housing should speed the process of building houses. The people are appreciative of the RDP houses and the government should keep up this good work.

Concerning SASSA, there is a huge contribution for them to make as the agency that controls all administration of the grant. The agency needs to look at the question of improving access their offices, so that no child is left out of the system who is supposed to be in. The idea of Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme (ICROP) is good and should benefit people irrespective of where they live. ICROP is the programme in which SASSA and Home Affairs work together so that people can get identity documents. People in the township suffer as much as those living in rural areas, as far as transportation is concerned. For instance, the people who live Mdantsane do not always have fare to reach SASSA and social work offices.

This goes for the social workers, they need to bring services to the people by being visible in the schools. These children are not in need of nutriment only, also they need some professionals to talk to as they carry emotional burdens with them to school. Some of the children are witnesses to different kinds of things such as domestic violence, burglary and many more. These issues pass on without knowing how they affected the children.

To conclude, the CSG is for good intensions and the government has made a good investment by looking to the children because they are the future. The CSG therefore

must help to produce citizens that contribute to the country. It is important for these children to live lives that will break the cycle of CSG dependency and in return give something back to the society.

CHAPTER 7

RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Introduction

Poverty is a social issue and for as long people are suffering, debates are needed in order to find solutions for those who cannot help themselves. Also as long as unemployment is the major issue in South Africa, the programs like CSG will have obstacles to fulfill their intended goals. There is a need therefore to look for alternatives that government could devise for vulnerable children if these programs become households income. Also there is a need to investigate whether these programs are not creating a lazy nation to fend for themselves and sees government interventions as easy way outs. Furthermore there is a need to research as to how far do the CSG beneficiaries go with their education and whether they do reach tertiary level? This section is about some of the issues that have been raised within the research and became the sources of argument. Then the study at this point to is looking for solutions on those issues.

Brynard (2006) argues that an unexpected dependency on the CSG by beneficiaries creates some concern. This is true and the high rate of unemployment in the country has developed people into adapting to the CSG for livelihood. Its purpose is being shifted from child support into family support. This means that the government should do something about the countries' unemployed to make sure that policies such as the child support grant serve their purpose. The creation of job opportunities and skills

development should be taken into considerations bearing in mind the levels of education and ages of the unemployed because some of these people have inadequate education. The developments of a limited period do not serve a purpose. For instance, in Mdantsane, the shopping mall that was constructed in mid 2008 created a temporary form of relief, but when the contract was over it was the end of jobs for the people. People need sustainable jobs with benefits instead of contracts of a limited period that will leave them jobless again.

Furthermore, in Brynard's view the situation of poverty experienced by children is closely linked to their parents' economic situation. He argues that this is directly related to the unavailability of job opportunities and the high rate of unemployment. As a result, these children cannot benefit or access their basic needs such as education. The government needs to make arrangements with uniform retailers for CSG beneficiaries to get discount when buying uniforms. This will help to remove the issue of school uniforms as an obstacle to the education of these children.

The majority of the respondents are in favour of the no-fee schools. That could make a huge impact in the lives of people of Mdantsane as it is implied in the findings that the people struggle to pay fees although they give an impression that all school needs are paid for including fees. Government is doing a good effort in giving the primary school children some stationery at the beginning of the year.

Also the government needs to make schools in the township attractive by developing

resources that have been mentioned earlier such as libraries, laboratories, computer rooms and even different grounds of different codes within the school. In this way the beneficiaries of the CSG will not feel disadvantaged by being in township schools.

Another suggestion is that government could introduce bursary and loan schemes in the high school level in favour of the CSG beneficiaries. The bursary or loan could be awarded at the end of grade 7 for grade 8 in any public school. The reason is because in the stationery used in high school and its uniform is a bit expensive than the primary's. Then other grades will depend on the child's excellent performance as he or she progresses. If the learner's progress is not satisfactory the bursary will be declined for the following grade. This could be a form motivation to these learners.

The government needs to have a plan concerning the transportation of the children to school. For instance, government could introduce school buses again as they once operated inside Mdantsane in the 1980s. These should be at affordable prices as the parents do not afford transport costs at all for their children to school. There needs to be a consensus between the government, the residents and the taxi industry so that this idea could not be seen as a threat by the other party. Even the times for the operation of these buses could be arranged according to school time tables

7.2 Vocational schools for young women

Vocational schools for girls need to be opened especially for young mothers who are totally depended to their parents. This would help them to get skills that will help them be employed since most of them have inadequate education that result in them idling. Training should be government funded with courses that will be affordable to the community. Examples of courses that could be offered are home economics, hair academy, crèche basic education and many more. The courses could help them to be self employed and even to be employed in different sectors.

7.3 The position of SASSA

There is a need for SASSA to have its own social workers that will do school visits and not to wait until there is a warning on the misuse of the grant. This means that SASSA should not only depend on government social workers but they should have social workers who will focus on grant and other SASSA issues only and in particular everything that has to do with the beneficiaries of the CSG. They should take into account all the special conditions that are attached to the CSG. They need to know what is happening to these children concerning their accommodation, for instance, whether these children are living under healthy conditions in their homes. Also, they need to know about their health since sometimes children are not well cared for by those they depend upon. In instance cases of long term illnesses like epilepsy and HIV/ADS which tend to be common in the primary school levels it should be the social workers who write referral letters for these children to hospitals. They should make

school visits often looking at more issues like indecent assaults and physical abuses happening in the children's own homes or neighborhoods. Sometimes children find it uneasy to talk about these issues to their care-givers and educators. The social workers would be able to assess whether the case needs their attention or police attention.

SASSA, social workers and the Department of Health should work together to get a plan to fight teenage pregnancy so that the CSG beneficiaries from teenage-moms, especially the girls, will not repeat the cycle by becoming teenage moms but focus on their studies. The Department of Social Development and the

Department of Health should integrate their policy formulation so that such assumptions as the high rate of teenage pregnancy should not be associated with the grant. For instance, the social workers and nurses could work together on family planning issues, and make special visits to schools. The Health department should help prevent teenage pregnancy so that the Department of Social Development could make a good job of reducing and eradicating poverty.

SASSA need to look into the question of can exercise Integrated Community Registration and Outreach Programme (ICROP) services in Mdantsane. This is important because people cannot reach easy the Department of Home Affairs and Social Work offices in unit 1 and unit 11 respectively due to high transportation costs

around the township. The primary care-givers and applicants of the CSG can make their ID documents and birth certificates in their units with the help of both SASSA and Home Affairs. By this SASSA will be taking services to the people.

The above mentioned departments need to work together in their policy formulation and integrate them in order to help the CSG to achieve its intended goals to alleviate poverty.

SASSA should have its own social workers who should be visible in schools so that these children can be cared for physically and emotionally. These children are raised in different homes which the social workers could visit from time to time. Also SASSA need to make sure that all children that are supposed to get the grant are registered. There should not be reports like that of Endulini in which children that are supposed to get the grant are failed by the system.

7.4 Conclusion

In conclusion this study holds a strong view that the government should fight unemployment and create job opportunities. SASSA is doing a good job by looking at the number of the CSG beneficiaries from the findings. On the other hand there is a need to do more in preventing cases of violence that happen in these households that result from who should be receiving the grant. This means that the children should not be looked on financial side of their needs but also their emotional sides need to be

taken care of. Finally, this is all about turning the lives of these children around therefore they need education that will open doors in their lives.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

List of Tables

This section shows the tables that complement the findings based on the questionnaires that were sent to primary care-givers or parents of Siyavuya senior primary school. Also there are responses from interviews with young mothers. There were 5 older women who were included in the interviews. In the tables, their responses are added to those of the young women as they are care-givers to some children.

Table1 (a)

Responses from the 50 respondents or primary care-givers about their sources of income and the level of unemployment.

1	Labourers	11	22%
2	Domestic Workers	10	20%
3	Civil servants	7	14%
4	State pension grant	42	84%
5	Children on CSG	91	Over 100%
6	Unemployed	98	Over 100%

Table 1(b)

Responses from the 35 interviewees about their sources of income and the level unemployment.

1	Laboures	6	17%
2	Domestic workers	1	3%
3	Civil servants	0%
4	State pension grant	0%
5	Children on CSG	41	Over 100%
6	Unemployed	28	80%

Table 2 (a)

Responses from 50 households:

1. Groceries per month.

Less than R200	R200 – R500	R500 – R1000	Other
11	23	16	None
22%	46%	32%	-----

Table 2 (b)

Responses from 35 interviewees:

1. Groceries per month.

Less than R200	R200 – R500	R500 – R1000	Other
4	12	6	13
12%	34%	17%	37%

Table 3 (a)

Responses of expenditure on medication from 50 households per month.

Less R50	R50 – R150	R150 – R300	Other
12	17	9	12
24%	34%	18%	24%

Table 3 (b)

Responses of expenditure on medication from 35 young mothers per month.

Less R50	R50 – R150	R150 – R300	Other
4	11	3	17
11%	31%	9%	49%

Table 4 (a)

Responses of 50 households on the general conditions of accommodation.

1 roomed house	2	4%
2 roomed house	4	8%
3 roomed house	-----	0%
4 roomed house	30	60%
5 roomed house	2	4%
6 roomed house	5	10%

Table 4 (b)

Responses of the young mothers on general conditions of accommodation.

1 roomed house	5	14%
2 roomed house	9	26%
3 roomed house	2	6%
4 roomed house	19	54%
5 roomed house	-----	0%
6 roomed house	-----	0%

Table 5 (a)

Parents on general questions on whether the school needs are all paid by CSG.

Yes	41	82%
No	9	18%

Table 5 (b)

Young mothers on general questions on whether the school needs are all paid by CSG.

Yes	15	43%
No	20	57%

Table 6 (a)

Responses by parents on expenditure of electricity.

Less than R50	R50 – R150	R150 – R300	Other
8	18	13	11
16%	36%	26%	22%

Table 6 (b)

Responses by young mothers on expenditure of electricity.

Less than R50	R50 – R150	R150 – R300	Other
6	23	5	1
17%	66%	14%	3%

APPENDIX 2

2.1 The questionnaire

Primary care-givers who receive the child support grant on behalf of their children.

A. Questions on household members.

Please write your answer on the space provided next to the question.

1. How many children are between 0 months and 15 years in your household?
.....
2. How many young persons are between 16 and 25 years?
3. How many are school-going children who are between 7 and 18 years
4. How many people are between 25 years and 60 years?
5. How many people are above 60 years?
6. How many people are employed as;
 - (a) Labourers
 - (b) Domestic workers
 - (c) Civil servants
 - (d) Other, please specify
7. How many people are receiving all pay or state pension grant?
8. How many children are receiving the child support grant?

9. How many people are employed in this family?
10. How many children under 18 years who are working?
11. How many children are 18 years and below?
12. What are you able to afford?
13. What do you think that needs to be done by government?

B. Questions on expenditure

Mark the correct answer with an X in the box provided.

1. Choose the amount used for groceries per month.

Less than R200

Between R200 and R500

Between R500 and R1000

Other, please quantify

2. Choose the amount spent on electricity and rates per month.

Less than R50

Between R50 and R150

Between R150 and R300

Other, please quantify

3. How much is spent on different medications in the household per month.

Less than R50

Between R50 and R150

Between R150 and R300

Other, please quantify

4. How much is spent per month on:

(a)Transport

(b)Rent

(c)Clothes

(d)Other, specify

R
R
R
R

C. General Questions

Mark the correct answer with an X in the box provided.

1. You live in a:

1 roomed house

2 roomed house

3 roomed house

4 roomed house

Other, specify

.....

Please circle Yes or No

If No, please give a reason.

1. Are all school needs paid?

2. Does the amount of R220 of the child support grant cover all the children's needs?

Yes or No

3. What are needs covered? Please tick.

Food

Accommodation

Clothes

Medication

4. What else is not covered? Please tick.

Food

Accommodation

Clothes

Medication

5. How do you manage with the things that are not covered?

6. What can government do to help families with grant children to cope?

2.2 Interview questions for SASSA Management

1. What is your role in the Child Support Grant?
2. How do you do your monitoring?
3. How do children benefit?
4. Do you think the conditions applicable to a primary care giver achievable?
5. Do you go and visit parents that receive CSG on behalf of these children?
6. Do you ask for receipts used on expenditure?
7. How do you make sure the grant is spent on the child?
8. What can be done to improve the situation?

Appendix 3

All the questions from the questionnaires and interviews that did not form part of the above tables are reported on this section then discussed in the Chapter of the Research Findings under the topic General information on household members:

4.1 Household members:

1. Children 0 – 15 years	175
2. Young persons 16 – 25 years	81
3. School-going children 7 – 25 years	131
4. People 25 – 60 years	160
5. People 60 years and above	42
6. Children under 18 years who are working	1

APPENDIX 4

Policy of child support grant as shown on Government Gazette 22 August 2008

Persons eligible for the child support grant

(1) In addition to the requirements contemplated in section 6 of the Act, a primary care-giver is eligible for a child support grant if:

- a) the children in respect of whom the application for the grant is made are his or her children: Provided that if the children in respect of whom the application for the grant is made are not his or her biological or legally adopted children, he or she shall be entitled to such grant in respect of a maximum of six children.
- b) or she meets the requirements of the financial criteria set out in Annexure B;
- c) he or she is not formally or informally employed to take care of the child;
- d) the child concerned is not resident in an institution funded by the State;
- e) he or she or any other person is not already in receipt of a social grant in respect of that child; and ,
- f) he or she is a South African citizen or a permanent resident.

(2) The primary care-giver must continue to be a primary care-giver of the child concerned for the duration of the period that he or she receives the child support grant or until substituted by another primary care-giver in accordance with the provision of section 19(3) (b) of the Act or upon the death of the primary care-giver.

(3) If more than one person claims to be the primary care-giver of the child, the Agency must, after having taken into account all factors contemplated in regulation 11 (3)(b), determine one of the persons to be the primary care-giver for purposes of eligibility for a child support grant.

(4) With effect from 1 January 2009 a child support grant may be awarded to a child not older than 15 years.

APPENDIX 5

Assets and Income threshold: 2008

Assets threshold

	1 April 2005	1 April 2006	1 April 2007	1 April 2008
Single person	R 280 800	R 295 200	R 313 200	R 338 400
Married person	R 561 600	R 590 400	R 626 400	R 676 800

Income threshold

	1 April 2005	1 April 2006	1 April 2007	1 April 2008
Urban	R9 600	R9 600	R9 600	R9 600
Rural/ Informal dwelling	R13 600	R13 200	R13 200	R13 200
CSG amount	R180	R190	R200	R210

In August 2008 the grant was R220 then in December it was increased by an additional R30 to make it R250. However this study is based on time of the research findings when the grant was R220.