



**CHILD SUPPORT GRANT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN JIKA JOE
INFORMAL SETTLEMENT**

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ABSTRACT

Evidence found in the literature suggests that Child Support Grant is among the most important programmes to alleviate poverty in South Africa. Findings from previous studies suggest that the Child Support Grant is an important tool of social protection in South Africa, reaching over 17 million South African children each month. However, the impact and extent of its effectiveness thereof has not been adequately explored and are still debated. Previous studies tended to focus more on the Child Support Grant as a tool to provide for the basic need of the child rather than its impact on both the beneficiary and the child. This research examined the Child Support Grant and poverty alleviation at Jika Joe Informal Settlement. The objectives of this study were to examine the development programmes other than cash transfer designed for the Child Support Grant beneficiaries at Jika Joe informal settlement, to identify the challenges that hinder the realisation of the government's objectives in poverty alleviation at Jika Joe informal settlement and to examine the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation component of Child Support Grant. Using a qualitative method approach, this study collected data from South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) management at Pietermaritzburg Local Office, also known as "Mbilakhahlela" and Jika Joe Informal settlement residents, in which the said SASSA office provides Social Grants to qualifying residents. This study is conceptualized within the framework of understanding poverty, high unemployment rate, inadequate infrastructure, zero hunger and corruption from the premise that poverty remains largely a challenge unmet! The study conducted an in-depth interview with the research participants to gain a better understanding of Child Support Grant more specifically the obstacles that might hamper the government's objectives in alleviating poverty. The study also examined whether there are developmental programs provided by the Government to demonstrate positive marks. The focus of the study was to examine the contribution of the Child Support Grant to poverty alleviation at the Jika Joe Informal Settlement. The analysis of data showed that Jika Joe residents perceive the Child Support Grant as an effective tool to provide for the basic needs of the child. This is, however, compromised by the fact that the very same grant is commonly shared by the entire family in the area. Another reported problem was the lack of beneficiary empowerment as manifested in general skills shortage which disadvantaged Jika Joe residents from competitively participating in the job market. The conclusions of the study were based on the findings. Some of the findings revealed the effectiveness of the Child Support Grant, even though this is vitiated by the prevalence of the utilisation of the grant by entire households. The findings also revealed that the government does have development programmes, but the question of whether they are relevant to the community of Jika Joe Informal Settlement remains indeterminate. The study also points to the need for the Government to seriously consider the introduction of the Basic Income Grant; the relocation of the Jika Joe residents to more decent housing like the newly built flats that they had been promised.

DECLARATION

I, Ntombizonke Maureen Xaba, student number 21448351, declare that:

The information in this dissertation, except where otherwise indicated, is original.

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Ntombizonke M. Xaba

Date: 16-04-2023

Dr. Omololu M Fagbadebo

Date: 17/04/2023

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my nephews, nieces and my children, Londiwe, Lifalakhe, Magugu and Khwezi.

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At the beginning of this Master's degree journey, I was uncertain whether I would be able to reach this end. I would never have been able to navigate it without guidance from God, Almighty. My appreciation goes to my supervisor, Dr Omololu Fagbadebo, for his patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and willingness to share information. His belief in my capabilities was a source of inspiration to become more vigorous throughout the journey.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994 following the end of the apartheid regime came as a relief from the challenges of segregated policies of the government. Black citizens, especially children had the opportunity of living in a free society devoid of discrimination. The hitherto disadvantaged citizens had a new horizon of a sense of belonging against the apartheid legacy of segregated living conditions (Guguyu, Ochieng and Zilper 2013). During the apartheid era one-quarter of South African children “were stunted and nearly one-fifth were underweight, signs of enduring deprivation despite South Africa’s relative wealth” (Centre for Global Development. 2015). “Although the government had sufficient funds to finance a national welfare program, the existing state system was inadequate and reinforced strict racial divides” (Centre for Global Development. 2015).

This development created a very harsh environment for the growing up of children, with devastating consequences for society. “The harsh environment also jeopardized adolescent health. Substance abuse, smoking, suicide attempts, unsafe driving, and violent behaviour were common among adolescents. So was unprotected sex, with all its associated risks” (Centre for Global Development. 2015). In its proposal for a comprehensive health policy for South African youth, for instance, the Department of Health (1999) noted the concern of teenage pregnancy which stood represented 40 percent of all pregnancies in the country in 1995. Malnourishment, poverty, poor health condition, outbreak of diseases and epidemics characterised the living condition of children forced to live in unwholesome conditions. The post-apartheid regime considered the need to redress this problem among the children to redirect their path toward redemption with relevant policies. The

Child Support Grant (CSG) is one such programme, designed to alleviate the plights of children.

The purpose of this study is to examine the effectiveness of the Child Support Grant (CSG) in alleviating poverty at the Jika Joe informal settlement in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. This is a result of the widespread allegations that some recipients did not utilise the CSG in the best interest of children (Khosa & Kaseke, 2017). Secondly, previous studies on Child Support Grant, focused on the Child Support Grant as a tool used to provide basic needs for the child, and have not treated the provision of recipients in much detail considering that for one to qualify for the Child Support Grant must meet either unemployed or earning less money. The primary objective of the study is to examine the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation component of the Child Support Grant, whilst identifying and examining the challenges that may hinder the realisation of government's objectives and development programmes if any that aimed at empowering the beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant in the Jika Joe area. The study used a qualitative methodology for data collection and analysis. Even though poverty alleviation is a component of the CSG, there is no visible impact of the programme in the community of Jika Joe (Bhorat, Cassim and Hirsch 2014:4).

When compared with other countries, South Africa is distinguished as one of the unequal societies due to its history of apartheid. Equally important, White South Africans were given protection against poverty and vulnerability in a form of social assistance, while black South Africans were excluded through discriminatory and social and economic policies (Triegaardt, 2005:250). Then again race-based policies impacted the education and labour market for non-whites, which then resulted in high levels of poverty and inequality (Lilenstein Woolard and Leibbrandt 2018:416). The disadvantaged citizens were, therefore, classified as living below the poverty line.

This disadvantage has forced the democratically elected government to introduce a social protection system as a tool to address social ills (Tanga and

Gutura, 2013:136). Social Assistance cash grants such as Child Support Grant were, therefore, introduced in April 1998 for children whose parents or caregivers are living below the poverty line.

To elaborate, one of the objectives of the protection system is to help and protect those who are vulnerable, including people living with disability, elderly people from the age of sixty upwards, and children (Tenzing, Shakya, Norton 2019: 4). The South African government provided Social Grants including the Old Age Grant (OAG), Disability Grant (DG) and Foster Care Grant (FCG). These grants were periodically paid to the qualifying recipients, but in 1998, the Child Support Grant was introduced as a replacement for the maintenance grant (Nkosi, 2009:412). The government believed that CSG was a vital tool for social protection, specifically designed to help underprivileged children, as the maintenance grant did not reach the poorest of the poor (Nkosi, 2009:412). Interestingly, the Child Support grant was paid on monthly basis. The CSG was made available to all qualifying South Africans irrespective of colour, race, or creed (Nkosi, 2009:412).

The CSG is provided in line with specific policies and legislative frameworks such as the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004 which provides for the rendering of social assistance to deserving persons and the provision of a mechanism for the rendering of such assistance. In its introductory statement, the Act indicates its focus thus:

To provide for the rendering of social assistance to persons; to provide for the mechanism for the rendering of such assistance; to provide for the establishment of an inspectorate for social assistance; and to provide for matters connected therewith (Social Assistance Act No 13 of 2004).

This intendment prioritises the resolve to assist a vulnerable set of people within the context of stipulated mechanisms.

The Act has four main objectives, according to Section 3(a-d).

The objects of this Act are to-

- (a) provide for the administration of social assistance and payment of social grants; (b) make provision for social assistance and to determine the qualification requirements in respect thereof; (c) ensure that minimum norms and standards are prescribed for the delivery of social assistance; and (d) provide for the establishment of an inspectorate for social assistance (Social Assistance Act 2004).

The Act also stipulates the categories of social assistance to include, “a child support grant; a care dependency grant; a foster child grant; a disability grant; an older person’s grant; a war veteran’s grant; and a grant-in-aid” (Social Assistance Act No 13 of 2004).

These categories of Social Assistance have eligibility criteria. To qualify for a child support grant, the person must be “the primary caregiver of that child” (Section 6, Social Assistance Act No 13 of 2004). Similarly, Section 7(a-b) of the Act stipulates that a person is eligible for the Care Dependency Grant “if he or she is a parent, primary caregiver or foster parent of a child who requires and receives permanent care or support services due to his or her physical or mental disability”. This however excludes a person, if the child is cared for on a 24-hour basis for a period exceeding six months in an institution that is funded by the State.”

In Section 8 of the Act, Foster Child Grant is only eligible for a foster child who “is in need of care” and that such a child “satisfies the requirements of the Child Care Act, 1983 [repealed and replaced with the Children's Act No 38 of 2005.] (Act No. 74 of 1983)” (Social Assistance Act No 13 of 2004). The child in the need of care chapter of the Children’s Act defined the categories of such children. Section 150 (1a-i) states thus,

- (1) A child is in need of care and protection if, the child- (a) has been abandoned or orphaned and is without any visible means of support; (b) displays behaviour which cannot be controlled by the parent or care-giver; (c) lives or works on the streets or begs for a living; (d) is addicted to a dependence-producing substance and is without any support

to obtain treatment for such dependency; (e) has been exploited or lives in circumstances that expose the child to exploitation;(f) lives in or is exposed to circumstances which may seriously harm that child's physical, mental or social well-being;(g)may be at risk if returned to the custody of the parent, guardian or care-giver of the child as there is reason to believe that he or she will live in or be exposed to circumstances which may seriously harm the physical, mental or social well-being of the child; (h) is in a state of physical or mental neglect; or (i) is being maltreated, abused, deliberately neglected or degraded by a parent, a care-giver, a person who has parental responsibilities and rights or a family member of the child or by a person under whose control the child is (Children's Act No 38 of 2005).

This Act provides shields for children in South Africa. Indeed, the preamble of the Act says it all:

To give effect to certain rights of children as contained in the Constitution; to set out principles relating to the care and protection of children; to define parental responsibilities and rights; to make further provision regarding children's courts; to provide for the issuing of contribution orders; to make new provision for the adoption of children; to provide for inter-country adoption; to give effect to the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption; to prohibit child abduction and to give effect to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction; to provide for surrogate motherhood; to create certain new offences relating to children; and to provide for matters connected therewith (Children's Act No 38 of 2005).

For the Disability Grant, Section 9 of the Social Assistance Act states that an eligible person, who must have attained a prescribed age, would be adjudged to be "unfit to obtain by virtue of any service, employment or profession the means needed to enable him or her to provide for his or her maintenance" because of "a physical or mental disability" (Social Assistance Act No 13 of 2004).

Similarly, Section 27 (1) (C) of the Constitution highlights that everyone has the right to have access to social security, including social assistance if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents.

1) Everyone has the right to have access to— (a) health care services, including reproductive health care; (b) sufficient food and water; and (c) social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance. (2) The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights. (3) No one may be refused emergency medical treatment (Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 as amended).

The Constitution of South Africa places more importance on the promotion and protection of the rights of children. Section 29 of the Constitution stipulates these rights.

(1) Every child has the right—
(a) to a name and a nationality from birth; (b) to family care or parental care, or to appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment; (c) to basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services; (d) to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation; (e) to be protected from exploitative labour practices; (f) not to be required or permitted to perform work or provide services that— (i) are inappropriate for a person of that child's age; or (ii) place at risk the child's well-being, education, physical or mental health or spiritual, moral or social development (g) not to be detained except as a measure of last resort, in which case, in addition to the rights a child enjoys under sections 12 and 35, the child may be detained only for the shortest appropriate period of time, and has the right to be— (i) kept separately from detained persons over the age of 18 years; and (ii) treated in a manner, and kept in conditions, that take account of the child's age; (h) to have a legal practitioner assigned to the child by the state, and at state expense, in civil proceedings affecting the child, if substantial injustice would otherwise result; and (i) not to be used directly in armed conflict, and to be protected in times of armed conflict. (2) A child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child. (3) In this section "child" means a person under the age of 18 years (Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, as amended).

Indeed, the enactment of a series of legislative frameworks, especially the Children's Act No 38 of 2005, is an indication of the commitment of the government to the promotion of the welfare of children.

While the CSG programme aimed to assist the children, there is no sustainable programme to address the poverty among their parents, taking into account that for the beneficiary to qualify, must be unemployed or earn not more than R4000.00 if a single or R8000.00 combined if married per month. If there are no development programmes to empower the Child Support Grant beneficiaries, the objective of the poverty alleviation component of the programme would be unrealistic, which could also jeopardise the welfare of the children.

In one of the families visited in the course of this study, seven family members were sharing one room. The primary caregiver was a 38-year-old mother in receipt of a Child Support Grant for one child. The mother had other three daughters and her niece. The niece was of school-going age but had dropped out of school because she just had a baby. The niece's mother was an undocumented Zimbabwean who had since passed on, leaving the niece undocumented as well. Although the niece and her baby qualified for Child Support Grant, it was practically impossible because of the lack of documents. At this point, the phenomenon of the entire family surviving on a single Child Support Grant helps poverty to raise its ugly head. Such scenarios are prevalent in the Jika Joe area.

Poverty is a challenge in South Africa. The survey conducted in 2015 by the General Household indicated that about 62% of South African children were living under the poverty line. The study by South African Early Childhood (2017), verified this claim, indicating that one million out of the 4 million children born in South Africa lived in poverty. Similarly, Statistics South Africa (Stat S A, 2020) verified that six of ten, 62, 1 % of South African children are multidimensionally poor. Also Chen, Leu and Wang (2015:49) highlight that families living in poverty depend on social transfers.

Donor agencies as well as other international humanitarian organisations have expressed concern over the plights of children. Especially in Africa and other developing countries, the health status of children has remained a reflection of the environmental condition that affect their living conditions (UNICEF 1998;

Guguyu, Ochineng and Zilper 2013). In South Africa, the segregated environment created by the apartheid regime policies has had a severe impact on the living condition of children (Guguyu et al 2013).

As a mitigating factor, in 2016, the United Nations rolled out the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which replaced the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Among the seventeen, three of the SDGs perfectly fit this study. The first goal is aimed at fighting poverty, which denies children their fundamental right to nutrition, education and shelter, to count a few. The second goal, zero hunger, aims to ensure that children are well-nourished, resilient to diseases, and fit to participate in the community. The tenth goal, the reduction of inequality, aims to ensure that children are not discriminated against based on gender, ethnicity, language and disability (Ali, et al., 2018). The main purpose of the SDGs was to address a wide range of social ills by the year 2030. Poverty, hunger and inequality had been prioritized as triple challenges that the government has to uproot by all means. Ninety-five percent of eligible people have access to social assistance, especially the child support grant (MTSF, 2014 – 2019).

The Child Support Grant responded directly to the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda (2030). Both the Child Support Grant and the SDGs have the common objectives of alleviating poverty, fighting hunger and reducing inequality. These social ills had been prioritized as triple challenges that the government must uproot. It is for that reason that In April 2005, the government created an entity known as the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) whose key functions include the effective management, administration and payment of social assistance as well as the processing of applications for social assistance, namely: Older Persons Grants, War Veterans Grants, Child Support Grants, Care Dependency Grants, Foster Child Grants, Disability Grants, Grant in- Aid and Social Relief of Distress.

The government is still committed to ensuring that 95% of eligible people have access to social assistance, especially through the child support grant, by 2030 (Department of Planning and Evaluation, 2014), but poor administration and inefficiency may hurt the implementation of NDP goals (National Development Plan, 2030:333).

1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM

Poverty and inequality, according to Tanga and Gutura (2013:128), are challenges in South Africa. They note further that government should introduce a security system as a tool that would respond positively to poverty, hunger and inequality challenges. The authors note that while CSG has assisted the beneficiaries in some areas to get basic needs, including school uniforms and food security, the programme's sustainability depends on the extent of empowerment of the parents of the children. In effect, the prevalence of social ills, like alcohol abuse, have dwarfed the programme's impact as the proceeds of the Child Support Grant were diverted to cater to entire households.

Delany et al (2016) and Hall et al (2017) explain that about 30% of South African children live with unemployed families. Therefore, the importance of the CSG is observed when Patel, Hochfeld, Moodley, and Mutwali (2012:5) suggest that it improved women's empowerment, confidence and control in household decision-making and financial matters. This statement was supported by the Minister of Finance in his 2017 Budget speech, where he highlighted that poverty was concentrated more in the township and rural areas. William (2017) is of the view that in South Africa, the CSG beneficiaries rely solely on the stipends from the grants for their maintenance because there was no development programme to empower the parents for an independent source of income and means of livelihood. This phenomenon is in stark contrast with the norm, which generally prevails in other countries.

The South African government introduced a social security system as a tool that would respond positively to poverty alleviation and inequality, which have

remained a challenge in South Africa. The minister of Social Development, in his 2002 parliamentary media briefing, praised the Child Support Grant as the biggest poverty alleviation program of the then government (Frank:2003). Nevertheless, there is a dearth of public intervention in this direction.

In South Africa, approximately 12.8 million (65%) households live below the poverty line, signifying a high poverty rate (Hall and Sambu, 2018:138). Tanga and Gutura (2013:128) believe that the child support grant has assisted the beneficiaries in meeting basic needs, including school uniforms and food security. This is, however, contrary to the situation in Jika Joe, as an informal settlement, with a high rate of unemployment. As a result, the society suffers from “drugs and alcohol abuse, rape, crime and taverns which are open 24 hours a day” (Msunduzi Municipality, 2015:04). On the other hand there is no clear government provision for Child Support Grant beneficiaries. This defeats the purpose of the grant, as it was meant to facilitate the care of the child rather than being a source of livelihood for the entire household. Thus, the effort of the government to alleviate poverty through child support grants is weakened by the composition of households in the Jika Joe Informal Settlement. Even though qualified residents of the Settlement receive this CSG, nevertheless, the condition of livelihood of the children has remained the same. This is the concern that motivated this study.

1.3 THE AIM OF THE STUDY

This study examined the effectiveness of the Child Support Grant as a government tool aimed at alleviating poverty at the Jika Joe Informal Settlement in Pietermaritzburg.

1.4 STUDY OBJECTIVES

The dissertation is motivated by the following objectives:

1. To identify the challenges if any, that hinder the realisation of the government's objectives of the Child Support Grant at the Jika Joe informal settlement.
2. To examine the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation component of the Child Support Grant at Jika Joe informal settlement.
3. To examine the development programmes, if any designed for the Child Support Grant beneficiaries at the Jika Joe informal settlement.

1.5 CONCLUSION

This chapter has presented the background of the research, Child Support Grant and Poverty Alleviation at Jika Joe Informal Settlement, with some theoretical foundation relating to the impact of the segregated apartheid policy on the plights of children. It also discusses briefly the legislative frameworks that gave rise to the CSG. The Chapter explained the research problem, aims and objectives of the study. Scholars agree that the Child Support Grant provides for the basic needs of the child however at the Jika Joe Informal Settlement having a high rate of unemployment, families are sharing the grant as a source of income. Moreover, there are allegations that some recipients are not utilising the Child Support Grant in the best interest of children. The research problem, challenged the researcher to examine the effectiveness of the Child Support Grant whether effective to alleviate poverty at Jika Joe Informal Settlement. The Chapter then listed the three objectives of the study namely, the examination of the developmental programs aimed at empowering the Child Support Grant at Jika Joe Informal Settlement. Secondly, to identify if there are challenges that hinder the realisation of government's objectives in poverty alleviation at Jika Joe informal settlement. Lastly, to examine the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation component of Child Support Grant at Jika Joe. The next chapter discusses the review of extant literature.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This study focuses on Child Support Grant (CSG) and poverty alleviation at Jika Joe Informal settlement, in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. This chapter reviews the extant literature on poverty alleviation programmes and CSG. The chapter demonstrates how this study fits into the relevant body of knowledge and highlights what differentiates it from existing studies. Furthermore, it offers an in-depth review of the literature on poverty and identifies gaps in previous studies. It also examines government poverty alleviation programmes, with a particular focus on the Child Support Grant. In addition, the literature review explores Social Assistance and other alleviation programmes from developing countries such as Bangladesh, Brazil, Gambia, Malawi, Namibia and Thailand, while analysing the Legislative Framework encapsulating CSG in the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

2.2 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.2. 1 UNDERSTANDING POVERTY

Noticeably, the problem of poverty in communities has preoccupied governments, non-government organisations (NGOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs), and the international community. Poverty, especially in the African continent, is massive and chronic, affecting a large number of societies (Uma & Eboh, 2013). NGOs and FBOs have played some roles in reversing this phenomenon, but the impact has been very minimal and unsustainable.

There is no universally accepted definition of poverty. A drop in the standard of living prevailing at a particular time may be construed as poverty by those

affected. Poverty is a heavily argued concept. It is broad and therefore tends to generate a plethora of meanings (Zhou and Liu 2022). The definition of poverty largely depends on measures employed to counter it as well as different perspectives taken as points of departure (Tersoo 2013:28-29). It is therefore not surprising that authors view it differently.

Poverty could be regarded as a complex concept. Various authors have different views about poverty. It is defined from different perspectives, depending on the measures used. Kaufer-Horwitz, Bode, Emenaker (2007) define poverty as a global dilemma; hence the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) aims to eradicate poverty and hunger. Tersoo (2013:28-29) and Kaufer-Horwitz, Bode, Emenaker, Haqq, et al. (2007) are in agreement that poverty is a state where an individual is not able to cater adequately for his or her basic needs like food, clothing and shelter. For them, the bare necessities of life create a bottom line from which the country can ascertain whether it is poor or not. Every other thing would then be considered secondary and thus tolerable insofar as poverty is concerned. This may generate complacency on the part of authorities and perpetuate a low standard of living in the society in question.

Lines (2008) defines poverty based on a lack of income. This definition, however, fails to take into account the income levels but merely puts interest on whether there is income or not. Not paying attention to income levels generally results in what is known as “the working poor” and the dreaded phenomenon of “slave wages” if there are no relevant regulations to counter it. Lines (2008) further defines poverty based on being excluded from decision-making processes that might affect individual welfare in society. Lines’ definition presupposes the existence of a functional democracy where there is the rule of law. It also suggests that there are pressure groups like Unions to effectively champion workers’ interests. Active environmentalists ensure adherence to environmental law is also indispensable to ensure meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

Johnson and Rogaly, (1997) believe that poverty could be described by political, cultural, and economic theories. This means that the political system of a particular society, can on its own, drive such a society to poverty. This is possible where the system is infested with or condones corruption. It is also possible culturally where there is no work ethic or no consequences for laziness. Implementing economic theories that stifle economic growth or are not thoroughly thought through to ensure feasibility and practicability on the ground, can also condemn a particular community to poverty.

Poverty does not discriminate against nationality, gender, race, or creed. This means that, by and large, the choices that a particular society makes may determine its destiny. The study by White (2016) concludes that poverty is rooted in rural areas. This is because, in most cases, there is a migration from rural areas to cities which results in skills drain and general neglect. Inadequacies in structural and social amenities like roads, bridges, electricity, and water often hinder development, which further entrench poverty in rural areas.

For one to understand poverty, it is imperative first to know how it is conceptualized. Neil (2013: 319) argues that it is common for poverty to be measured by poor service delivery, poor governance, and unemployment, especially in Africa. The author believes that more should be considered when defining poverty, like education, the standard of living, and health, to name a few. This means that the provision of substandard education and a poor health care system in a country may be a solid indicator that poverty exists in that society. The author further explains that the concept differs when aligned to the individual, organisation, and government because of the particular behaviour of the individual, organisation, or government concerned.

In the 1980s, the World Bank (1981) defined poverty as a situation that depicts a lack of opportunity and ability for citizens or groups of citizens to access and enjoy an adequate diet, and improved conditions of living. This definition

recognizes capability and entitlement as major factors that keep citizens impoverished beyond financial incomes. When citizens are deprived of their capability to exploit their potential they become dejected and poor. This capability factor led to the recognition of human development as a critical issue for the emancipation of citizens from poverty (UNDP 1990; 1997; 2010). This gave rise to the study of the indexes on human development, human poverty and multidimensional poverty. Thus, poverty transcends a mere shortage of financial and economic resources but all forms of social and economic exclusions, citizens' vulnerability to inadequate opportunities and availability of public services.

The World Bank (2016:37) observes poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon with measurements based on the income of the citizens. Globally, the World Bank (2022) has set \$2.15 (R39.23) per person per day as the new poverty line. This has replaced 2017 rate of \$1.90 per person per day. For someone to be defined as poor, the person must live below the poverty line and be unable to meet the basic needs, i.e., food, clothing, and shelter. The poverty line for South Africa currently stands at R1417.00 per month for a single person) (Statista 2022).

Similarly, the Scottish Poverty Information Unit regards poverty as relative to the standards of living in a society at a specific time. This will mean that the lower the standard of living in the community, the higher the poverty. It further states that people suffer poverty when denied sufficient income for their material needs (British Broadcasting Corporation Home, 2014). This highlights the critical role that should be played by the government in the form of a minimum wage, and the unions by way of constantly advocating for improved working conditions for their members.

The poverty phenomenon in South Africa revolves around some dimensional issues that have defined its prevalence (Schotte, Zizzamia, and Leibbrandt 2022). South Africa experiences persistent poverty among its citizens. The

same set of vulnerable people who lack the necessary capability to access social services persist in their poverty level.

Because persistent poverty and transient poverty represent distinctly different experiences that pose different challenges and needs, understanding the correlates of persistent versus transient poverty is essential for designing effective policy tools to target poverty alleviation measures appropriately (Schotte, Zizzamia, and Leibbrandt 2022:215).

A sizeable number of citizens are finding it difficult to access the necessary resources to meet their daily needs. This exposes such citizens to vulnerable situations where the desire to improve their condition pushes them to the precipice of life (Shafiq and Ali 2022). As Schotte et al (2022:215) have noted, “some non-poor households are at higher risk of falling into poverty than others, particularly in the event of adverse shocks against which they are unable to insure themselves adequately”. Besides the persistence and vulnerability of poverty, there is also a level of stable middle class among citizens with “access to the human, economic and social capital that allows them to sustain this position over time” (Schotte et al. 2022:215).

These dimensions play a vital role in the understanding of poverty in South Africa. There is widespread and persistent poverty in South Africa. Data shows that approximately 30.3 million citizens, representing 55.5%, are living in poverty. In the Second Quarter of 2022, the unemployment rate in South Africa stood at 33.39%. This development, according to Schotte et al. (2022:215), is a derivative of “deprivation in terms of education and employment opportunities interlinked with exclusion on the grounds of gender, race and locational disadvantage”. In addition to this, volatile economic realities in the country have helped in sustaining poverty. This has propelled people “into deep poverty with job insecurity and unstable source of income for their livelihood.

2.2.1.1 TYPES OF POVERTY

According to Pacione, Measham, Kronick, Meloni, and Ricard-Guay (2012:1-31) and The World Bank (2016), poverty is constituted by two main

subsections i.e., the relative poverty line and the absolute poverty line. However, Mabongo (2021:6) deduced the fact that relative poverty and absolute poverty are inter-related.

The conceptualization of relative poverty is explainable in situations where citizens are not attaining the same standard of living that their counterparts enjoy elsewhere (Notten and De Neubourg (2011). This may be a consequence of hyperinflation, wars, or sanctions. This is also true in cases where underdevelopment robs citizens of a standard of living that is consistent with basic human dignity and social decency. Sometimes issues of racism, nepotism, and sheer government incompetence may give rise to this phenomenon.

Conversely, with regard to the absolute poverty line, the authors refer to extreme poverty wherein most of the citizens subsist in “survival mode” (Pacione, et al, 2012:1-31). The average costs of basic survival needs are normally beyond the reach of the majority. It is characterised by the severe deprivation of basic human needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. It generally characterises the poorest countries of the world. Similarly, Mobongo (2021:6) expands on the same logic that the concept of absolute poverty encompasses aspects of both money-metric and non-money-metric deprivation. The author further emphasises that this type of poverty does not measure income distribution and of that this approach is considered objective and invariant to change over time for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of people who are classified as poor.

Simply explains that the lack of or inadequate income is at the core of this scourge of poverty. Whilst poverty may manifest in other sophisticated forms, it is in the inability of an individual to satisfy basic human needs such as food, clothing, and shelter, that poverty rears its ugly head. Hence, the ability to avail income opportunities by the government coupled with the capacity of the individuals to take advantage thereof, cannot be ignored when dealing with

poverty. It means that ability of the government to manage unemployment levels in the country goes a long way in suffocating poverty and its manifestations in the country. In the South African context, there are conspicuous themes that lay bare the harsh realities of poverty.

2.2.2 HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The challenge of high unemployment in South Africa has been deeply debated. This includes the study of Graham and Mlatsheni (2016: 51 – 59) which concludes that whilst South Africa has a high unemployment rate, the youth constituted a high number of unemployed South Africans. Similarly, in the released mid-year population estimates (MYPE: 2019), it is clear that the youth between the age of 18 - 34 constitute almost a third of the population, 17,84 million, with 39.5% unemployed. The estimates suggest that the population of South Africa has youth as a majority. The study of Graham et al (2016:51 – 59) further avers that within this group of unemployed youth, young women who do not possess labour market qualifications constitute a higher percentage of unemployment. This then exposes such women to social ills like unprotected sex, transactional sex, and cohabitation. Children are then born, after which the South African government has to respond with Child Support Grant. Unemployed Coloureds and African youth, the study goes further to state, make a higher portion of unemployment compared to their Indian and White counterparts.

The situation is further exacerbated as youth without tertiary education fails to compete in the labour market due to a lack of relevant skills. The lack of skills has a negative bearing on income which perpetuates poverty. Given that skilled jobs are generally high-paying jobs, those without skills will be trapped in poverty even if employed, resulting in what is termed the “working poor”. The prospect of escaping the poverty trap, therefore, becomes elusive and results in the postponement of the self-sufficiency status of dependents, thus prolonging their dependence on their parents.

2.2.3 INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE

The ANC-led government inherited the country in 1994, which was characterised by vast inequalities in the quality of education, and basic infrastructures such as healthcare, safe drinking water, housing and sanitation. Poverty is felt more profoundly by the rural communities in South Africa (Mbuli, 2008:64; Hoogveen and Ozler: 2004). Unfortunately, rural development is largely lip service to reality on the ground. The rural communities are characterised by inadequate infrastructure, which creates major obstacles to poverty alleviation programmes on the ground. The country cannot tackle poverty without adequate investment in facilities such as dams, power stations, and road networks.

People living in rural areas are more active in agricultural activities compared to people living in townships, the lack of dams to harvest water results in poor production. According to Arogundade et al. (2011:43), the triumph in the fight against poverty is proportional to the effort put into infrastructural development. Population growth needs to be reciprocated by major infrastructure adjustments for poverty alleviation programmes to be achievable (Ogunleye, 2010:295). In the same vein, Mthethwa (2017:210) highlights that if there is no integrated planning of government departments, specifically the Department of Transport and Department of Social Development and Local Municipality, rural infrastructure will remain a challenge. Although the South African National Treasury observes the need to improve infrastructures, it is also concerned about the provincial budget allocated, which does not match the quality of services provided (Greve, 2015:2).

2.2.4 ELUSIVE ZERO HUNGER

Goal number 2 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2015) aims to achieve zero hunger by the year 2030. The achievement of this goal remains a challenge because of political interference, economic instability and environmental challenges. According to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)

(2017), whilst there may be food security at National Level, a large number of households within the country are food insecure because of inadequate access to food. Household food insecurity in South Africa is believed to be linked with household socio-economic status as indicated by income. This is supported by the study conducted by De Cock et al. (2013), which confirms that most households in South Africa living in Informal Settlements are severely food insecure due to lack of access to food as a result of lack of income. Food remains the single most important factor in the determination of poverty levels in the country. It is for this reason that food insecurity and its causes cannot be ignored when tackling poverty.

2.2.5 RAMPANT CORRUPTION

In South Africa, corruption by workers has become a norm. This has seriously compromised service delivery as those in power scramble to re-purpose resources for their gain. This has created a culture of unaccountability which has put brakes on the developmental agenda in a country overwhelmed by a high rate of unemployment (Lamond et al., 2007). The Government's response through the provision of CSG, which has a progressive transformative experience, is being undermined by fraud and corruption that have eroded people's values. According to Transparency International (2014), corruption has significantly hindered the capacity of developing countries to grow their economies.

2.3 UNDERSTANDING INFORMAL SETTLEMENT/ SLUMS

Based on the United Nations Habitat Program definition, "Informal settlements are residential areas where a group of housing units has been constructed on land to which the occupants have no legal claim, or which they occupy illegally, they use unplanned settlements and areas where housing is not in compliance with current planning and building regulations, unauthorized housing"(United Nations, 1996). Informal settlements are often formed on land not suitable for development, for example in sloped terrain and flood-prone (Solesbury, 2003).

However, a provision is made with Upgrading Informal Settlement Program which offers grants to accredited municipalities to undertake sustainable housing development projects aimed at improving the conditions of slum communities (Habitat, 2004). Likewise, Tissington, (2010:15) explains further that the program also seeks to provide phased upgrading, beginning with basic services and possibly ending with the provision of the top structures.

2.4 DEFINING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The flexibility of the general definition of social security is attributed to the fact that it is country-specific in nature (Mabongo, 2021:11). Similar statement is debated by scholars, Mpedi (2008:5) argued that there is no universally approved definition of social security whilst Berghman (1991:10 – 11) indicate clearly that among others, structural and cultural characteristics of a country determine the content of social security.

Approaching social security in the South Africa context, Mabongo (2021:11) whilst citing Van der Berg (2015), mentioned the two major components of the social security system. Firstly, social assistance which the author proclaimed as is viewed as an influential type of social spending in terms of the primary income distribution. The second component is occupational insurance, which is commonly known as social insurance. Occupational insurance protects against economic risk but most importantly, it is an income contribution of persons within the formal employment which thereafter provides: Retirement benefits for those in the formal labour market

Medical insurance for the employed and their dependants

2.5 SOCIAL SECURITY

Academic research into human welfare institutions has its origins in universities in Europe and North America, Jacobs (2008:18). Social scientists concerned with social policy issues have produced a substantive body of

knowledge about human needs and the way that society has responded to these needs. They have traced the historical emergence of modern systems of welfare and documented the nature, organisation, funding, and functions of social services (Jacobs 2008). The analytical framework of this study revolved around the concept of social security.

Existing theories on social security can be divided into two broad categories: political theories and efficiency theories (Feldstein and Liebman 2002:79). Political theories view social security as redistribution and as being the outcome of a political struggle.

This is relevant to the South African context where fights among citizens are common (politically) to extract resources from each other (Casey & Sala-i-martin, 1999:20) and where politicians use the social security system as a way of maintaining political power. For this research, both theories are applied to identify inefficiencies and challenges as well as explain how the South African Child Support Grant System has been created to deal with this problem. These theories help to clarify the decision of the government to step into the administration of the child support grant program. They also help in understanding why CSG was considered the optimal way to redress poverty and inequality challenges facing the South African communities whilst at the same time eliminating inefficiencies and corruption within the system.

One would note that even though there are many examples of both political and efficiency arguments within the South African public service, theories within these two basic groups share some characteristics and predictions. One characteristic shared by all purely political theories of social security is that the outcomes of political struggles are likely to be economically inefficient (Casey & Sala-i-martin, 1999:20). This is quite true for South Africa as there is a continual and -ever-increasing reliance on government grants by the citizenry. These theories suggest that there are social security reforms that may increase welfare. The problem is that the same theories tend to predict that

social security reform may not be feasible without political reform. In contrast, to the extent that they argue that social security is the optimal policy to combat some kind of market malfunction, efficiency models will tend to predict that social security reform is less likely to increase welfare (Casey & Sala-i-martin, 1999:20).

Another prediction shared by all political models is that other dimensions of government activity such as regulations and mandates should favour the children (if, through whatever political means, the children are powerful enough to get a social security programme, they should also be powerful enough to get other political benefits such as regulations favouring them (Casey & Sala-i-martin, 1999:26. This prediction is not shared by efficiency models. According to Casey and Sala-i-martin (1999:20), some political theories are built upon explicit game theoretic political models.

2.6 SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

South Africa, Brazil and Mexico are among the countries that executed Social Cash Transfer schemes in the late 1990s (Hanlon, 2009). In these countries, social grants are unconditional. For instance, in South Africa, the child is not compelled to attend school or be immunised to qualify for CSG. There are close to 130 countries with at least one Social Cash Transfer programme in place (Bastagli et al., 2016). South Africa has various Social Assistance Programmes (SAP) in place that are aimed at alleviating poverty. These include social grants for disabled persons, War Veteran's grants for ex-combatants, social grants for the elderly i.e. persons over 60 years, children's grants, and the Social Relief of Distress for emergency relief against hunger.

South Africa is amongst the developing countries with programs including social assistance or social security programmes to care for the vulnerable members of society. Other Southern African states such as Namibia and Botswana provide social assistance programmes as a universal right.

Countries including Chile, Costa Rica and Southern African countries including Swaziland also have pension schemes like that of South Africa, where the government is responsible for the costs of the social security system (Razavi 2016:6). Razavi (2016) further states that Brazil has a cash transfer system observed as a centre of the protection programme that ensures that those in need of social assistance are assisted by the government. Many middle-income countries like Turkey, Jamaica, Colombia, Ecuador, and Chile have been using the same cash transfer system for many years, and it is working well. Mexico and Brazil have even extended and upgraded their programmes to accommodate urban households.

2.6.1 BANGLADESH

Bangladesh has approximately eight different types of social assistance programmes aimed at alleviating social challenges facing their communities.

2.6.1.1 CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER SYSTEM IN BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh government is among the first countries that pioneered a conditional cash transfer system in a form of a female School Stipend Program that started in the early 1990s (Ferré, and Sharif, 2014). Scholars found that this program contributed to the development of the education of females where most were able to enrol for the secondary level at school. More programmes were introduced to improve primary education outcomes after the roll-out of the female school stipend program. As an example, the primary education stipend programme aims to keep children in grades one up to grade 5 at primary schools for those parents who cannot afford it (Ferré, and Sharif, 2014). The only condition, however, is that such children must achieve a 40% pass to remain in the programme. The Bangladesh government has also introduced the “Shombhob program”, which ensures that poor households with infants from birth to 36 months are supported bi-monthly. According to Ferré, and Sharif (2014) and Shamsuddin (2013), the flip side of these noble

programs is the amount of corruption associated with them. However, the conclusion made by Hirvonen & Hoddinott (2020) is that cash transfers still provide immediate aid concerning reliability, delivery costs, and lower levels of fraud and corruption.

2.6.1.2 FOOD BASED TRANSFERS

This programme, introduced in 1988 by the Bangladesh Government, aims to provide rural and destitute women with in-kind wheat to improve their social and economic conditions. The wheat of about 31.25 kg is provided to these women every two years as part of an in-kind transfer (Nino and Dorosh 2002). Due to theft and corruption, 30% – 50% of wheat is sold immediately, instead of being consumed, and approximately 15% of wheat does not reach its intended recipients.

2.6.1.3 FOOD-FOR-WORK PROGRAMME

The food-for-Work programme is a seasonal public works programme that is, amongst others, the oldest safety net in Bangladesh. It focuses on developing rural roads and infrastructure to improve performance in agriculture, alleviate rural poverty and reduce human loss of life due to natural disasters. The downside is that this programme is still discriminatory as gender disparities and unequal wage practices are still the order of the day in Bangladesh. However, in 2009, a cash payment method was implemented to improve programme efficiency and prevent unauthorized use of funds allocated (Anwar et al, 2019: 1 – 7).

2.6.1.4 OLD AGE PENSION

During 1997 and 1998, a means-tested social pension scheme for the elderly was introduced as a way of alleviating poverty (Nilsson, Rana and Kabir,

2006). Qualifying beneficiaries are paid monthly. For one to qualify, the person must meet the prescribed criteria where men must be 65 years old and above and women must be 62 years old and above. Priority is given to destitute and homeless elderly. This pension has a threshold to ensure that well-to-do households do not clog the scheme (Government of Bangladesh, 2013; Nilson, Rana and Kabir, 2006).

2.6.2 BRAZIL

A study by Yap, Orazem and Sedlacek (2002) explains that Brazil also has a grant, namely, the Child Labour Eradication programme. This grant is in the form of a cash transfer to households whose parents are employed in very degrading and hazardous areas of the country. The purpose of this grant is to improve the education levels of such parents' children to improve the living conditions of such families and their future generations (Yap, Orazem and Sedlacek, 2002). Similarly, in South Africa, Social Assistance is provided through the Child Support Grant to beneficiaries who are unemployed or earning per month not more than R4000 or R8000 combined income if married.

Poor households whose children attend school are incentivised through the Cash for Human Development Programme, which aims to reduce chronic poverty and raise school enrolment (Cardoso and Souza, 2002). The Cash for Human Development Programme aims to consolidate the different cash transfer programmes in Brazil (Government of Brazil 2016). The Benefico de Prastacao Continua is a monthly social pension programme for the elderly who are 65 years and above. The purpose of the programme is to reduce poverty amongst the frail and elderly (Barrientos and Lloyd-Sherlock, 2004). The last social assistance in Brazil is the Unconditional Social Pension for rural men who are 60 years old and women who are 55 years old. This assistance aims to reduce poverty in older people who are employed in the most rural areas of the country (Beltrao, Carmarano and Mello (2005).

2.6.3 THE GAMBIA

Closer to home in Africa, according to a study conducted by the World Bank (2018), the Gambia remains one of the poorest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with almost 46.8% of the population estimated to be poor. In the Gambia, there are multiple social protection programs in place, but most of them are on small scales and are donor-financed. The social protection schemes aim at preventing destitution or deep poverty. It further addresses food insecurity and malnutrition in infants and children. Although the country has good programmes, the World Bank (2018) report further shows that there are no programs designed for the extremely poor and vulnerable. Administratively, it is further observed that Social Services personnel are too understaffed and worse still, under-resourced. There is also no systematic way of sharing operational data, which leaves the government failing to respond effectively to the needs of their population.

2.6.4 MALAWI

The Malawian Government has three different types of social assistance programmes. The Input Grant is a food security transfer for farming households that is aimed at increasing productivity and food security through farming (Levy 2003). Next is the Food-Based in-kind Transfer programme aimed at curbing the 2002 food crisis in Malawi. It provides 50kgs of corn per month to selected families for six months, especially those that are affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic (Baulch et al., 2018:1–3). There is also the Public Works programme with an integrated approach called the Improving Livelihood through Public Works Programme, which aims to ensure opportunities for 10 months of work for identified beneficiaries to build roads, dams, and the like (Chirwa et al., 2004).

2.6.5 NAMIBIA

Many scholars debated about various social protection programmes implemented in Namibia. The recent study conducted by Schade et al. (2019:1-54) provides an interesting version of the status quo in Namibia as an upper-middle-income country with one of the most comprehensive social protection systems in Africa. The study further reveals that the systems in place provide cash transfers and complementary social assistance to vulnerable groups such as people living with disabilities, children, and the elderly. The findings of the study also reveal that social protection cash transfer, in particular, has played a huge role in reducing poverty, unemployment and inequality. Low economic growth in the country impedes the realisation of the government's objectives to eradicate poverty. Although Namibia has enjoyed independence over nearly three decades, studies have shown that economic growth is not so buoyant hence not all Namibians benefit. The study further indicates that although the country's economy is growing, unemployment is also growing. Results show that the unemployment rate increased from 27.5% in 2012 to 34.0% in 2016. Youth unemployment also between the age of 15 – 34 rose from 37.08% to 43.4%. Therefore, it is clear that the objectives of the government of Namibia to address the three grand challenges, which are poverty, unemployment, and inequality, are far to be achieved.

2.6.6 THAILAND

The Government of Thailand has a Fee Waiver programme that specifically targets health services (Birtan and Giedion, 2003). Beneficiaries who qualify under the set criteria are given a three-year card that specifies designated health facilities that they can visit in case of injury or illness. The state is also mandated in some instances to intervene and provide care for children from single-mother households. However, the lack of knowledge and understanding of policies renders them incapable of accessing their rights (Paitoonpong et al., 2010). The study conducted by Wiwatwongwana (2018) also reveals

clearly that Thailand single mothers are frequently in informal jobs that pay them very low incomes. As a result, they do not enjoy social security benefits. Nevertheless, Thailand has child support policies that enable beneficiaries to benefit from the state.

2.6.7 OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

To achieve the Millennium Development Goals, many African Governments have implemented programmes such as school feeding schemes, cash transfers, grants, and waivers to alleviate vulnerable families (UNDP, 2014). In Kenya, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development (2011:1-27) commits to providing appropriate social security to persons who are unable to support themselves and their dependents. In realisation of government that the provision of social security alone would be inadequate in responding to the ills, the ministry is committed to enhancing the capacity of communities to identify, plan, and implement sustainable socio-economic activities. They further commit to implementing programmes that will respond positively to orphans and vulnerable children.

According to Wesbank (2019), Lesotho falls under a category of a lower-middle-income country. It has a population of approximately two million, and more than half of its citizens live below the extreme poverty line. In the study by Nino-Zarazua et al (2010), it is stated that in 2009, the Government of Lesotho started providing social protection programmes to address issues of poverty and under-nutrition. The child grants programme was found to be one of the suitable programmes to address issues of poverty. Similarly, Barrientos et al. (2021:96) note that eradication of poverty is on the priority list of the Lesotho government, where numerous programmes are placed to fight poverty. Another example can be seen in the Cash and Food transfer Pilot program, which ran concurrently with other in-kind food programmes during 2007 – 2008, to determine the program that will be appropriate to respond to

the needs of the community. The findings of the study confirmed that cash and food transfers respond directly to reducing hunger in Lesotho households. World Bank (2019) further buttresses that the Lesotho government demonstrates a high level of commitment towards social protection.

2.7 OVERVIEW OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

2.7.1 BOTSWANA

Scholars such as Diraditsile and Rankopo (2018: 123-139) and Jongman (2018: 1317-1324) have examined the successes and challenges of poverty alleviation programmes. Mangobeyi and Odhiambo (2017) posit that at independence, in 1966, Botswana was the second poorest country after Bangladesh. However, the discovery of diamonds steadily moved the country from poverty into a middle-income country (World Bank 2018, UNICEF 2012). Despite being a middle-income country, Botswana continues to face challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment, when compared to countries of similar economic stature. This is why the government provided a wide range of services for families and children as social protection to eradicate poverty (Kalusopa and Letsie, 2013; Poverty guideline, 2013).

The services aimed, amongst others, to reduce poverty and also provide safety nets to those in need. Poverty eradication programmes that aimed at improving the livelihood of the Botswana community included (1) the Backyard garden program, (2) Ipelegeng program, which provides short-term employment support and relief, and (3) alternative packages (Kalusopa and Letsie:2013). A few challenges observed were programmes designed for the wrong group and no relevant legal framework in place.

On the other hand, Botswana introduced a different approach to alleviating poverty through the enhancement of human capacity by increasing access to health, quality education, and nutrition (Jongman, 2018:1317-1324). The government implemented various policies and aligned them with its Financial

Assistance Programme, Citizen Economic Empowerment and Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), which focused on supporting citizens starting or expanding businesses (The Republic of Botswana, 2012). The Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) was formed to facilitate the growth of small and medium enterprises involved in agricultural activities. The Rural development support programmes are aimed at promoting the economy, creating employment, and generating income and entrepreneurial development (Republic of Botswana 2012). Some of these programmes, including the Financial Assistance Programme, were phased out because of the high failure rate.

2.7.2 NIGERIA

Poverty is pervasive among rural dwellers in Nigeria. According to Omoniyi (2013:238), the Nigerian community is underdeveloped compared to the wealth that the country generates. The author argues that most Nigerians live below the poverty line. Omoniyi decries the unacceptable condition of rural roads, and the hardship endured by children and women walking long distances barefooted to collect firewood and water. Mostly, children in rural areas study under trees because of a lack of facilities, resulting from neglect and inconsistencies in various poverty alleviation programmes.

In a study conducted by Taiwo and Agwu (2016:18-30), efforts of Government and Non-Governmental Organisations are discussed broadly about numerous initiated poverty alleviation programmes. These include The Farm Settlement Option. There is also the Agriculture Development Project, established for agricultural projects, but focusing on promoting integrated rural developments. This programme is, however, draining the little resources of the government instead of reducing poverty. The authors further explain that in 1999, the government introduced a National Poverty Eradication Programme classified into Youth Empowerment Scheme, the Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme, the Social Welfare Services Scheme, and the Natural Resources

Development and Conservative Scheme. However, it is sad to observe that all these efforts have not produced the desired results because of pervasive fraud and corruption in the country. The poverty bandwagon rages on.

2.8 POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Poverty alleviation programmes in South Africa aim to increase people's income and enhance their daily lives (RSA, 2012). The government developed it as an intervention tool aimed at assisting South African citizens to escape the cycle of poverty and ultimately eradicate poverty. It further aims to provide social interventions linked to the integrated National Development Plan (NDP vision 2030), which the government adopted in 2012. One of the National Development Plan (NDP) goals is to alleviate poverty and for everyone to enjoy acceptable living standards. Chapter 11 of the NDP further guarantees social protection system that will ensure the reduction of deprivation and protection of those vulnerable to social ills (RSA, 2012).

The NDP Vision 2030 further draws attention to the social protection system that responds directly to poverty alleviation namely:

- Social assistance cash grants
- Statutory social insurance
- Access to free basic services (water and energy for poor households)
- Housing for people below a specified income bracket
- Free education in poor communities
- Free health care for pregnant women and children under six years of age

2.9 CHILD SUPPORT GRANT SYSTEM IN SOUTH AFRICA: A CONTEXTUAL PERSPECTIVE

South Africa is not unusual in the long historical precedent for its welfare system. According to the South African Government Gazette (<http://www.gov.za>), to qualify for the CSG, the applicant must be a child's

primary caregiver (over sixteen years) but takes full care of the child concerned. The applicant can be a guardian, biological parent, or grandparent. The applicant must be a South African or a permanent resident. If an applicant is married, proof of marriage and spouse identity document is also required. The child must be eighteen years and under. The Act further states that the child should not be in the care of any State Institution. The child must also be a permanent resident or be living in South Africa. This is a means-tested grant; therefore, proof of income is required if the applicant or the spouse has a source of income. The unmarried applicant, as of April 2020, must earn less than R52 800.00 per annum or R105 600.00 if married to qualify for the CSG. According to Aguero et al. (2006), South Africa's important role in cash social assistance is fairly exceptional when compared to other middle-income countries.

2.10 UNDERSTANDING CHILD SUPPORT GRANT AS A POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

Post-1994, the government introduced numerous policies and strategic interventions that address the imbalances created during the apartheid era. Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), adopted by the government in 1994, emphasized the establishment of social safety net that delivered social security, specifically to those at risk (Reitzes, 2009). The replacement of the State Maintenance Grant (SMG) with the CSG is one of the government's achievements, as State Maintenance Grant did not reach all South Africans (CASE, 2000). This is because the SMG was based on segregation laws of apartheid, whereas the CSG is accessible to all South Africans irrespective of race or colour (Nkosi, 2009).

Scholars and writers like Barrientos and Niño-Zarazúa (2010), Behrman et al. (2010), and Fiszbein and Schady (2009) argue that the CSG has a positive impact on schooling and the actual attendance of classes by children who benefit from the CSG. Similarly, Patel et al. (2012) also point out that the CSG assists in improving nutrition. They suggest that the child support grant

beneficiaries perform better in school and are likely to finish schooling. The study conducted by UNICEF (2012) also found that the impact of the grant exceeded expectations and, more importantly, reduced poverty significantly. The UNICEF (2014) report also indicates that in 2014 the Thailand Government also introduced the same Child Support Grant whereby poor families would receive money equivalent to 400 baht per child per month as part of their social security programme.

The Constitution of South Africa (1996) ensures that the welfare of South African citizens is taken care of and that social ills such as poverty are addressed. This is done through various poverty alleviation strategies, including the social security system. The social security system caters to more than 17 million beneficiaries. According to Khumalo (2013), poverty made children more vulnerable in the societies they lived in. Leckie (2006) compared a child living in an informal settlement to being much better off than a child that languishes in open streets. Venter (2014) highlighted that child poverty and vulnerability had severe effects on children's quality of life. In 2017 alone, South Africa registered 989 318 births, a 2.1% increase compared with 2016 (STATSSA: 2018). The Department of Social Development Annual Report (2015) also revealed that CSG was one of the department's significant contributors to the fight against poverty and inequality.

2.11 THE ROLE OF THE CHILD SUPPORT GRANT

The Financial and Fiscal Commission (2012) revealed that the CSG was the leading Social Assistance in South Africa, and one of the largest social assistance programmes internationally. This claim has remained questionable since 62% of children in South Africa lived under the poverty line with a likelihood to be malnourished (Barnes, Hall, Sambub, Wright, and Zembe-Mkabile 2017; UNICEF 2020). Close to 1.8 million children live in households where no one is employed (Hall et al. 2017). Unemployment has been identified as a contributing factor that hinders the positive impact of the CSG.

The Social Development Annual Report (2015) revealed that the Child Support Grant is one of the department's significant contributors to its fight against poverty. Recipients who took full care of the child receive this grant. About 90% of caregivers were females, this has raised a question since the Social Assistance Act No (13 of 2004) and the Constitution of South Africa (1996) do not discriminate on gender.

2.12 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK RELEVANT TO CHILD SUPPORT GRANT

In the South African context, social security policies are constructed based on four realms that are, poverty alleviation, poverty prevention, income distribution and social compensation (Strauss & Hortsten, 2013). This section is the analysis of the sections of South African legislation and policies affecting the Child Support Grant program as part of plans for improving the livelihoods of Informal Settlement dwellers. The government of South Africa introduced various legislation, policies, and acts to address poverty. The government further stamped the importance of taking care of vulnerable children and those in need. The Constitution of South Africa (1996) protects and explains the rights appropriate to children. Further, the government is obligated to ensure that deserving citizens access social security (Section 27(1) (c) of Act 108 of 1996). This study will then specifically focus on how these policies and legislation have alleviated poverty among Jika Joe residents.

2.12.1 THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1996

The Constitution is defined as “the supreme law of the country of South Africa. It provides the legal foundation for the existence of the republic, sets out the rights and duties of its citizens, and defines the structure of the government” (Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996). The formulation of the Constitution was a historic milestone in protecting the human rights of those who had previously been excluded. The Constitution brings a provision for

welfare to be a concurrent responsibility of both the national and the provincial governments. The national government is responsible for developing policies, norms, and standards, whereas the provincial government is responsible for the administration of welfare services, including grants. On the other hand, it is the responsibility of the government to put measures in place within its existing resources to ensure the progressive realisation of the right to social security (Section 27(1) (c) of Act 108 of 1996).

2.12.2 SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY ACT NO. 9 OF 2004

The South African Social Security Agency Act (2004) provides for the establishment of the South African Social Security Agency. It further prioritizes effective management, administration and efficient payment of social assistance, hence the formation of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). Chapter 2 of the Constitution, Section 27 (1) (c) specifies that “Everyone has the right to have access to social security if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents”. The Social Assistance Act (13 of 2004) clearly explains that the CSG should be paid specifically to a person who is a primary caregiver of the concerned child.

2.12.3 SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT NO 13 OF 2004

Social Assistance Act (2004) stipulates that Child Support Grant will be paid only to a person who is the primary caregiver of the child that qualifies. The act further provides for the extension of all social security measures to all South African citizens on an equal scale (Vorster, Rossouw & Muller, 2000: 8). It further provides temporary relief in the form of a cash grant or other benefits, like food parcels, to people who are in crisis or awaiting permanent grants. Raghunundhun (2004: 21) states that the Social Assistance Act of 1992 makes provision for social grants that are paid by the government to people who

qualify for them so that they can have access to their constitutional rights. Grants are only for South African citizens who do not have enough means to support themselves. The grants are classified into Old Age Grants, Disability Grants, War Veterans Grants, Child Support Grants, Care-Dependency Grants, Foster Care Grants and Grant-in-Aid. Linking the research topic to this Act is also checking whether the objectives of the government to alleviate poverty through CSG are achieved. The Act further clarifies that SASSA also has a right to suspend the payment of a child support grant to a parent or primary caregiver, if:

- The recipient abuses or neglects the child
- Is found to be incapable of using the CSG for the benefit of the child

All grants regulated by the Social Assistance Act are means-tested except the Foster Care Grant, to ensure that these grants are only paid to families where real needs have been established.

2.13 CONCLUSION

This chapter centred on the review of the extant literature on the concept of social security and its practices. The CSG is a form of social protection for a category of children in South Africa. It also touches on the concepts of poverty which constitutes parts of the focus of the study. This also includes a comparative literature review of the social security systems and how other countries are grappling with poverty. It also explored literature on how South Africa is performing in its fight against poverty, notably against the backdrop of the introduction of the Child Support Grant as a poverty alleviation measure. Different types of poverty were discussed including the contributing factors of poverty. The chapter further discussed the legislative frameworks that are relevant to the child support grant. The contextualization of the Child Support Grant was also discussed to gain an understanding of its objective, as one of the poverty alleviation programmes of the South African government.

It may be controversial, but not without justification, to aver that, by and large, at the core of the challenges created by poverty, self-manufacturing thereof, and by extension, self-inflicted scars cannot be ruled out. The literature reviewed above does indicate, to a greater extent, that corruption accounts for a high percentage of failures to combat poverty across different countries. One also gets a sense that there is a general neglect of rural development, which makes the realities of poverty to be skewed against rural dwellers. Regarding culpability in the perpetuation of poverty, some blame can be apportioned to intended beneficiaries rather than only to those in authority.

In Bangladesh, it is commendable that it is one of those countries that pioneered the conditional Cash Transfer system. The system was aimed at encouraging Secondary education among females. One is reminded by Graham and Mlatsheni (2016:51-59) that young South African females without tertiary education constituted a big part of those unemployed and thus poor. Another interesting point to note in Bangladesh is the Food-Based Transfers for rural and destitute women with in-kind wheat to improve their social and economic conditions. However, it is said to be rigged by corruption. As a result, up to 50% of wheat is sold immediately by beneficiaries instead of being consumed, and approximately 15% does not reach its intended recipients. This highlights the fact that corruption plays a role in the continued subsistence of poverty.

In Brazil, the Child Labour Eradication programme targets households whose parents are employed in very degrading and hazardous areas of the country. The purpose of this grant is, future-focused, to stop the cycle of poverty in such households. Such children will, therefore, be employable and thus be in a position to earn income, which will then break the cycle of poverty. Brazil has the Unconditional Social Pension for rural men who are 60 years old and women who are 55 years old. This assistance is aimed at rural dwellers, which augurs well for rural development.

In the Gambia, the Food-based Transfers are aimed at women and children, which is commendable. In Malawi, there is a programme that targets those with HIV / AIDS pandemic. The Public Works Program of Malawi provides opportunities for identified beneficiaries to build dams and roads. This seeks to address the challenge of inadequate infrastructure, which is responsible for perpetuating poverty if left unchecked.

This chapter reveals that central to the study of poverty, hunger, unemployment, corruption and inadequate infrastructure defines the subject in clear terms. Lack of food is at the core of basic survival needs. The study clearly shows that there is widespread hunger across many countries. Most government interventions are primarily aimed at addressing hunger. Hunger is inextricably linked to a lack of clothing and shelter and is, therefore, the face of poverty. Inadequate infrastructure logically results in unemployment as it indicates an array of things that the country cannot do and thus cannot employ people in that regard. Unemployment indicates a shortage or no income, which means that there is a challenge in putting food on the table for individuals. But of particular interest is the issue of corruption which cuts across most developing countries. There is a consensus among most authors that corruption has eroded most efforts to reverse poverty.

In the South African context, the eradication of poverty is entrenched in the statutes. Besides CSG for children, the government caters to the disabled and elderly members of society. The CSG is accessible to all South Africans irrespective of race or colour (Nkosi, 2009). The CSG is heralded as a leading Social Assistance in South Africa, and one of the largest social assistance programmes internationally. This claim has remained questionable since 62% of children in South Africa live under the poverty line with a likelihood of being malnourished. In addition, 1.8 million children live in households where no one is employed (Hall et al., 2017). The unemployment rate is high in South Africa.

There are divergent views regarding the scourge of poverty *vis-à-vis* the effectiveness of interventions employed by respective authorities. This has given rise to the need for an independent study to ascertain the effectiveness of the CSG intervention at the Jika Joe informal settlement. It is important because there are generally negligible income sources in the community in question, resulting in food insecurity. The study will ascertain if the CSG is adequate in addressing poverty challenges in the area. The next chapter provides the research methodology.

CHAPTER 3

SOCIAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH AFRICA

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Poverty alleviation has always formed part of the South African government programmes post 1994. This chapter examines programmes applied by the government to alleviate poverty post 1994. These programmes, among others, include the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), The Growth Employment And Redistribution (GEAR), The National Development Plan (VISION 2030), the link between the Millennium Development Goals with Children's Well-being and comparison between Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030

3.2 THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RDP)

Emphasis in the primary post-apartheid period was not on increasing cash grants as a redistributive instrument, but on reorganising the government, and bringing individuals into employment, (Brockhoff 2013:23). Whilst organising the government, new policies and strategies were implemented to address the imbalances of the past and improving the quality of life for South African citizens. This would result in the Child Support Grant not being the government's first attempt at addressing poverty (Brockhoff 2013:23). The government adopted the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) in 1994 to establish a social safety net aimed at delivering social security to those who were at high risk, such as children from indigent households (Reitzes, 2009:12). However, employment progress throughout the post-1994 era has been inadequate in sufficiently decreasing unemployment and hunger in South Africa as desired (FFC 2011:91).

3.3 THE GROWTH EMPLOYMENT AND REDISTRIBUTION (GEAR)

The Growth Employment and Redistribution policy (GEAR) was promulgated in 1996 when the state realised that while the social objects of the RDP were significant, more rapid economic development was needed in order to deliver resources to meet social security needs and address deprivation and inequity, post-apartheid (Reitzes 2009:10). The Reconstruction and Deleopment Program on the other hand intended to meet the basic needs of the public such as employment, land, accommodation, water, electricity, communication, transportation, a clean and healthy environment, nourishment, health care, and social well-being (Visser 2004:6). According to (Visser 2004:9), the Growth Employment And Redistribution implied that social assistance provision budgets for municipal infrastructure projects would be given priority so as to address the basic needs of the citizens. In summary, the Growth Employment And Redistribution (GEAR), did not focus only on employment as a means of reducing poverty, but also on prioritizing social welfare budgets as compared to Reconstruction And Development Program (Van Zyl and van Westhuizen (2003:11). The scholars, Van Zyl and van Westhuizen (2003:11) concluded in their social-service delivery on GEAR study that recepients grew greatly over the GEAR period even though actual budgeted expenditure on social expansion declined to some extent over this period. It is the view of Mbuli (2008:6), that poverty and unemployment are closely related in South Africa.

3.4 THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (VISION 2030)

In 2012, the South African government, adopted the National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030, which focuses on integrated planning aimed at achieving specific objectives such as poverty alleviation over the intermediate to long term. The NDP eloquently states that by 2030, everyone must enjoy an acceptable standard of living, such as nutrition security. Moreover, the plan guarantees social security directed at reducing deprivation and protection of those vulnerable to socio-economic ills, including lack of access to food (RSA, 2012:362) The Child Support Grant is one of the government's tools in

ensuring that Vision 2030 is achieved. Monetary grants such as the Child Support Grant play a significant role in offering caregivers access to nutrition of sufficient quality and diversity to meet the children’s needs (UNICEF, 2008:1). Outcome 13 of the Vision 2030 discusses an inclusive and responsive social-protection system. Outcome 13 mentions that South Africa’s NDP plays a fundamental role in social security in addressing the serious challenges of eliminating hunger and eradicating inequity (RSA, 2014:1).

3.4.1 Millennium Development Goals linked to Children's Well-being

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	
2. Achieve universal primary education	Children everywhere need to be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education in all levels of education
4. Reduce child mortality	Reduce infant mortality rate
5. Improve maternal health	Ensure the reduction of maternal mortality
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Ensure school attendance of orphans and children affected with HIV/AIDS and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	Disadvantaged children need sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
8. Develop a global partnership for development	Through global partnership, children can gain access to affordable essential medicine on a sustainable basis

UNICEF, 2007:35-94

3.5 FROM MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG) TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) 2030

Drawing on the discourse on poverty, this paper notes that this is a fundamental issue for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the 1st of January 2016, the SDGs came into effect. This was a great improvement on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agenda which was supposed to be met by 2015. The MDGs mainly focused on poverty and its alleviation, and deviated from the broader conception of development which had earlier focused on enlarging the productive capacity of economies to make possible the improved living standards. The MDGs was composed of 8 goals and 21 targets, which all focused on ending extreme poverty. They were credited by critics for reviving the interest in development issues in areas of poverty, education and health and strengthening the willingness to put more resources into aid (Kaltenborn, M., Krajewski, M. and Kuhn, H., 2020).

The MDGs employed aggregate targets which did not change inequalities within countries, but focused all resources on particular goals. The MDGs completely left out issues such as; peace, security, human rights, democracy and good governance. The Millennium Development Goal number 3 which dealt with promoting gender equality and empowerment of women highlighted elimination of gender disparities in primary, secondary and tertiary education by 2015. Critics assert that this target left out all issues needed to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment including eliminating violence on women, recognizing the burden of unpaid care work that disproportionately falls on women, women's limited access to assets and resources, protecting women's sexual and reproductive health rights and ending harmful traditional practices such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Again, Kaltenborn, M., Krajewski, M. and Kuhn, H., (2020), further state that the 2030 agenda goes beyond poverty and covers a set of issues across three dimensions of development: economic, social and environmental. It is universal as it takes a holistic approach to addressing the challenges of sustainable development and it applies to all countries rather than to developing countries only. The Sustainable Development Goals address key

challenges such as combatting climate change and achieving gender equality, not only through a stand-alone goal, but in a cross-cutting manner thus capturing the interconnectedness of development concerns. The SDGs were a result of an inclusive process with a high level of ownership from government, unlike the MDGs which were based on the millennium declaration and developed by a number of 'United Nations insiders'. Universal targets in the SDGs are grounded on the idea of global public goods; the environment, health and economic growth annulling the distinction between the developing and developed countries. Further, the SDGs agenda is broader compared to the MDGs. It addresses more aspects of women's lives and therefore represents a considerable advance on the MDGs. The 2030 Agenda prioritizes gender equality as a stand-alone goal (SDG 5), and a cross-cutting issue. It further recognizes the role of discriminatory laws, beliefs and practices in driving gender inequalities such as violence, early marriages and unpaid care work.

3.6 CONCLUSION

The chapter has deliberated on programmes applied to alleviate poverty by the government post 1994. These programmes included the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), The Growth Employment And Redistribution (GEAR), The National Development Plan (VISION 2030), the link between the Millennium Development Goals with Children's Well-being and comparison between Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030.

Regarding the RDP, the focus had been on reorganizing government and providing employment. The focus was not on Child Support Grant per se, which proved to be its undoing in view of the fact that employment levels did not improve. Regarding the GEAR, the focus had been on rapid economic development and the prioritization of social welfare budgets. Regarding the NDP, the focus was on intergrated planning in the quest to alleviate poverty. Its hallmark was its emphasis on the Child Support Grant as a central means

of alleviating poverty. Regarding the MDGs, these were meant to alleviate extreme poverty, but a lot of matters essential in ensuring alleviation of poverty were left unattended e.g. women empowerment. The SDGs had a broader agenda compared to MDGs. There was also more buy in from governments which enabled SDGs to be more effective than MDGs.

CHAPTER 4

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY USED IN THE STUDY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the research methodology. The design, method, strategy, and paradigm of this study are discussed. It offers an explanation of the link between research design and method in relation to the paradigms. Creswell (2009:5) buttresses that a research design is connected to a paradigm. In addition, the site of this study, population and sampling strategy, and tools for data collection are presented. Finally, ethical issues in relation to the study are discussed as well.

The heart of the discussion in this study is the Child Support Grant (CSG), as a government tool aimed at alleviating poverty in the country. The Jika Joe Informal Settlement was found suitable to conduct this study since it is an informal settlement with negative prominence in the media. Jika Joe is an informal settlement situated in the centre of Pietermaritzburg's Central Business Development area. Most households in Jika Joe have illegal electrical connections. As a result, electrical fire disasters are commonly reported, especially in winter. Also, the area is reported to have a high crime rate including housebreaking and theft. The area is also notorious for engaging in destructive service delivery protests, which attract negative media coverage. Equally important, children are being raised in this compromising place who might be qualifying for social assistance including the CSG.

The CSG, as a government poverty alleviation intervention, has compelling requirements to fulfil as the policy mandates. The grant is expected to stretch to basic needs such as taking care of school needs, clothing, food and shelter. The study was interested in measuring whether the CSG in Jika Joe can be stretched to meet the above-mentioned basic needs, bearing in mind that selected participants are not employed and are solely dependent on the CSG.

4.2 RESEARCH PARADIGMS

Research paradigms, according to Du Plooy-Cilliers, Davis and Bezuidenhout (2014:18), are also called research traditions or worldviews. Researchers employ paradigms to adopt a specific way of studying phenomena relevant to their field. Paradigm is further defined by Bryman (2012:630) as a cluster of beliefs that dictates in a particular discipline, what should be studied, how the study should be done, and how results should be interpreted.

There are different paradigms that the researcher could explore. Du Plooy-Cilliers et al (2014:20) list three paradigms, which they also referred to as worldview or traditions. They are interpretivism, positivism and critical realism. Creswell (2009:103), on the other hand, identified four types of worldviews namely constructivism, participatory, pragmatism and post-positivism.

The study adopted an interpretive paradigm, as the researcher functioned as an instrument of data collection through interacting with the Jika Joe community with the view to gaining an in-depth understanding of their views about the effectiveness of government programmes in alleviating poverty through CSG in the area. Du Plooy-Cilliers et al (2014:65) explain that interpretivists are those that seek to study people by interacting with them to solicit first-hand information and thus gain a deeper understanding of their views.

4.3 RESEARCH STRATEGIES

Research strategies are models used within qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods designs to determine the procedures to be followed for a study (Creswell, 2009:103). The author states further that research strategies provide specific direction for procedures in a research design. The research strategies relating to qualitative research design vary from phenomenological,

ethnographies, narrative research, grounded theory, and case study. According to Brynam (2014: 42), in case study research, the cases are few, but various features of the cases are studied. In this study, the case study was adopted as it was felt that it would give the best results.

This study was conducted such that the details within the phenomenon of the poverty situation at Jika Joe are unearthed but moreover to determine whether the CSG impacts on alleviating poverty. This allowed for a detailed understanding of the views of the research participants. A case study was used where the poverty phenomenon was investigated in depth.

4.4 RESEARCH DESIGN

Du Plooy et al (2014:18) define a research design as a procedural plan that is adopted by the researcher to answer questions objectively, validly, and accurately. Two general backgrounds inform the choices made by the researcher. These are ontology and epistemology philosophies, which influence the research methodology (Neuman, 2014:93). Further, there are three types of design that the researcher can adopt, namely qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods. Mixed method design is commonly used by social researchers to view objects from different perspectives.

Table 4. 1 VARIANCE BETWEEN QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

Research element	Qualitative research	Quantitative research
Nature of data	Soft – words, stories and symbols	Hard – numbers and statistics
Principles and assumptions	Interpretive principles Uses cases and context and cultural meaning	Positivist principles Uses variables and hypotheses
Goals of the study	Usually generates new hypotheses Describes details of the causal mechanism or process	Usually verifies or falsifies a relationship or hypothesis Focuses on outcome or effect

Logic path	and	Logic arises from ongoing practice Nonlinear path	Systematic and follows a linear research path
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Source: Adapted by the researcher from Neuman (2014: 167-168)

The study used a qualitative methodology for data collection and analysis. This method guided the researcher in solving the identified problem. The participants include parents whose children were qualified for and benefited from the CSG and one official of the SASSA at the Pietermaritzburg Local Office Management. They were interviewed for an in-depth understanding of their views about the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation component of the CSG.

4.5 TARGET POPULATION

According to Du Plooy-Cilliers et al (2014:134), the population is all the people who meet the population parameter for the research. Wiid and Diggins (2013:186) further defined population as the “total group of people or entities from whom information is required”. The target population in this study were the young parents, the CSG beneficiaries, who are between the ages of 20 and 38 years and living in Jika Joe. Samples were drawn from among these parents while one official of South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) Management in Pietermaritzburg were also interviewed to supplement data obtained from the parents. The participants used their own words and mixed both English and Zulu language to stress their thoughts regarding the CSG. The researcher explained and produced proof and reason for the study, and showed the full approved document of the proposal, which explains the purpose of the research.

4.6 SAMPLING METHOD

Sampling strategies are methods the researcher uses to select the study sample from the population. There are two different types of sampling methods, namely probability (systematic, simple random, cluster and stratified random) and non-probability sampling (non-probability method namely, convenience sampling, accidental sampling, purposive sampling, quota sampling, snowball sampling and volunteer sampling (Du Plooy-Cilliers et al (2014:136). This study employed a non-probability method as it is relevant to a qualitative study. This study adopted a purposive sampling technique. According to Du Plooy-Cilliers et al. (2014), purposive sampling is where the researcher purposefully chooses the elements that she wishes to include in the sample. The advantage of the non-probability type of sampling is that it is less complicated and less expensive.

The researcher identified the families with a beneficiary who receive the CSG. The non-probability sampling method provided factual data, which ensured that the researcher avoided generalizations in the findings. In August 2021, twenty-nine (29) participants living at Jika Joe who receive the CSG for their children, were visited in their homes and interviewed. The researcher ensured that the COVID-19 protocol was observed by wearing masks and ensuring social distancing. In addition, one member of the SASSA Pietermaritzburg Local Office management was interviewed. This enabled the researcher to get balanced perspectives from both the beneficiaries and the government official who is working with the beneficiaries.

4.7 MEASURING INSTRUMENTS

The researcher collected data using the appropriate tools based on the research design. The methods which are suitable for qualitative design are observations, focus groups, in-depth interviews and historical research (Du Plooy-Cilliers et al., 2014:188). In this study, an in-depth interview was chosen

as a suitable measuring instrument for collecting qualitative data. This exercise led to the interview of 29 beneficiaries of the CSG who are residing at Jika Joe. The researcher requested permission to conduct the study. SASSA granted the researcher permission to interview its staff as well as the parents' beneficiaries. Thereafter, the researcher sent an e-mail to the selected SASSA staff, requesting their participation, two weeks before interviews were conducted.

4.8 DATA ANALYSIS

The study used thematic analysis to dissect the data collected. The themes were derived from the research objectives and the responses of the participants. The researcher extracted raw data directly from the role players, which qualified such data as primary data, thus providing credible evidence to the study (Du Plooy-Cilliers et al, 2014:290). The primary data was collected through interviews. Qualitative data collected from the respondents were analysed based on the identified themes common to the responses. The data collected were sorted, examined, and interpreted while taking into consideration the unique meanings attached thereon.

Operationally, interview questions were prepared in Zulu and English in order to help participants to understand the questions better. The researcher further restructured the questions in a format that allowed participants to express their views in their language. The use of a questionnaire was employed in the study since it is less expensive and less time-consuming. The researcher also utilized secondary data, which was drawn from existing literature. Other sources of primary data are legislative frameworks and World Bank reports. The researcher also derived secondary data from journal articles, textbooks, and other related mass-media reports.

4.9 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Several limitations in the study need to be acknowledged. Firstly, the researcher intended to interview two SASSA personnel, but during the time of collecting data, one official was seconded to another local office. Secondly, the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 regulations in the country slowed down the collection of data. This affected the free participation of respondents. During this time, the Government added a top-up of R500.00 to all Child Support Grant recipients. This could have swayed the respondents to a particular direction given this spectacular windfall. Lastly, the dominant trend in the area is the fact that women apply for Child Support Grant. Therefore, the researcher could not get male beneficiaries to interview.

4.10 TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE STUDY

Any research methodology must show how validity, reliability and trustworthiness will be achieved (Riege, 2003:76). For the researcher to ensure validity in the study, multiple sources of evidence were used. At the data collection stage, the data was recorded using notes. During the data analysis stage, the researcher used primary data, where she analysed the data received from interviewed participants. Secondary data was also used in the study where the researcher visited the literature of scholars who have conducted similar studies and also visited the SASSA website and records to gain in-depth information related to grants. The manual notes taken were made available to the participants as evidence and assurance of reliability.

Du Plooy-Cilliers et al, (2014) suggested four categories of trustworthiness which are credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability. To determine the quality of data collection techniques, this study prioritized credibility. For Du Plooy-Cilliers et al (2014:258), credibility refers to the “accuracy with which the researcher interprets that data collected from the participants. Further, the researcher ensured credibility by spending

prolonged time with the participants so that she gained their trust and confidence. In this study, the researcher prepared interview questions in a manner that the questions and results obtained from participants could be applicable in similar studies to be conducted in the future. The researcher took notes during interviews and presented them to the supervisor for verification. This exercise was undertaken to give assurance that findings emanated from the data gathered from the participants, not the researcher's perspective or assumptions about the area of study.

4.11 ANONYMITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Anonymity and confidentiality were ensured during interviews. The researcher ensured that the participants' names were not recorded at any stage and that participants' identities were not matched to their responses. The information is known only to the researcher. Du Plooy-Cilliers et al. (2014:267) differentiate between anonymity and confidentiality. When anonymity is promised, the researcher will ensure that the participants' names will not be recorded at any stage. On the other hand, when confidentiality is promised, even when participants' identities could be matched to their research responses, information will be known only to the researcher.

4.12 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The researcher adhered to the ethical requirements of the university. This includes informed consent, collecting data from participants, dealing with sensitive information, avoiding harm, providing incentives and avoiding dishonesty. Ethics has formed the foundation of the study since it confirms the conduct of a given profession or a group (Babbie, 2004:64). Since approval to conduct a study is essential, the researcher obtained a letter of clearance from the Durban University of Technology. Further, approval for the conduct of a study on Social Grants was obtained from the SASSA Acting Regional Executive Manager, KwaZulu-Natal Province. Participants participated in the

study voluntarily. Participants were assured of their rights to anonymity and confidentiality. Their names were never recorded during the interview process.

4.13 CONCLUSION

This chapter presented the research methodology of the study. In doing so, the methodology was linked to the research paradigm. The context of the research methodology was shown through literature, and through the actual process that unfolded. The research design was presented as qualitative, and the process followed during the study was discussed. This included how sampling was conducted from the various sampling frameworks, with the sampling strategy being non-probability and the sampling technique being, to a large degree, purposive. The tools used to collect data were also presented; these were interview questions. The methods used to analyse collected data were also presented. The chapter ended with the presentation of the limitations of the study and how these were managed. Having presented the methodology for this study, the next chapter deals with the perceptions of research participants.

CHAPTER 5

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF JIKA JOE AND PERCEPTIONS OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The preceding chapter presented the research methodology that was employed in this study. This chapter integrates and presents an exposition of the empirical findings from the data collected, it further analyses and discusses the findings in depth. This chapter begins with the historical background of Jika Joe Informal Settlement. Subsequently, it presents and analyses the result of the research interviews conducted in this study. The purpose is to examine whether the Child Support Grant does alleviate poverty at Jika Joe Informal Settlement (Jika Joe).

Three broad objectives emerged from the data collected through the in-depth interviews conducted at Jika Joe informal settlement.

1. To examine the development programmes aimed for the CSG beneficiaries in Jika Joe informal settlement
2. To identify if there are challenges that hinder the realisation of government's objectives in poverty alleviation at the Jika Joe informal settlement
3. To examine the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation component of CSG in the Jika Joe informal settlement.

Interviews were conducted with 29 participants of the Jika Joe informal settlement who were all females, as it was a challenge getting males who receive the Child Support Grant. The prevailing trend in the area is that a beneficiary is either a mother or granny of the child. Another interview was with an official at the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) responsible for the Pietermaritzburg Local Office, which services the Jika Joe area in

respect of the Child Support Grant. The Jika Joe Informal Settlement population predominantly speaks IsiXhosa and IsiZulu. There are, however, other non-South African languages spoken in the area to a lesser extent. The responses provided by the participants relate to their daily experiences, their outlook and obviously their perceptions. Although the interviews were conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the researcher adhered to all applicable protocols. Respondents have been coded separately for anonymity purposes. The in-depth interviews with the respondents have been coded as follows: *“Unemployed beneficiaries”*, *“Semi-employed beneficiaries”*, *“Unauthorized waste-cyclers”* and *“SASSA officials from Pietermaritzburg SASSA Local Office”*. None of the 29 showed discomfort in their responses, and all responded with enthusiasm and understanding of the questions.

The interview questions were mainly based on the extent to which the Child Support Grant can meet the basic needs of the households. These basic needs are food, schooling, shelter and medication. This strikes at the core of the prevailing situation at Jika Joe given the rampant unemployment that is the order of the day in the Jika Joe Informal Settlement. Questions were constructed to elicit perspectives from the participants on the extent of their awareness regarding government initiatives to alleviate poverty. The questions were designed to also extract vital information about the community's take on the challenges hampering the realisation of the government's objective of alleviating poverty, particularly in the area. The interviews were also interested in establishing the extent to which the community was exposed to the development programmes aimed at the general empowerment of, particularly, the Child Support Grant beneficiaries in the area.

5.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE JIKA JOE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

Jika Joe informal settlement, with approximately 4000 residents (Arde 2022) lies just adjacent to Pietermaritzburg's central business district (CBD) and is

bordered by the N3 highway south of the settlement (Msunduzi Municipality, 2015:02). This informal settlement “straddles both banks of the Dorpspruit River in the centre of Pietermaritzburg, the capital city of the province of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa” (Robinson 2020). The bulk of the houses were “made of mud, scraps of wood and cardboard, the roofs of Jika Joe are sheet metal, bits of hardboard and tarpaulin sales blown off passing trucks on a nearby highway” (Robinsn 220). Within this settlement are taverns along the walkways where the dwellers gather to drink and the children playing around the drinking spots.

The Jika Joe informal Settlement harbours different types of people with diverse life style in a slum.

There are young people in this place who have resorted to whatever means are at hand to carve out an existence in this mix of culture and African languages. Jika Joe while having a reputation as a dirty, lawless and dangerous place, Jika Joe is also a home space and families live here too (Robinson 2020).

This description depicts the kind of livelihood of the people and the nature of their growing up experiences of the children. Arde (2022) described the place as “a monument to ineptitude and inhumanity”. The settlement was named after its founder, Jika Joe, who was described as “a tough taxi boss” (Arde 2022). Residents of the area who knew him said that “he was a firm but fair leader” with imbued honesty who protected residents against criminal elements while he was alive (Arde 2022).

One can count up to four zonal areas, which ultimately constitute the Jika Jo e Informal Settlement. The area is such that it raises serious questions about the competency of the Municipality to fail to timeously nip in the bud such a phenomenon and prevent it from taking centre stage in the characterisation of the city. The land was initially occupied by individual job seekers who came to be close to job opportunities. This was, in fact, during 1994 when most people moved to urban areas hoping to reverse their dire situation caused by unemployment.

These people started occupying pieces of vacant land, which gradually culminated in the whole area being illegally occupied. The people became bold as the Municipality did not react to such an invasion and started to bring their families for permanent stay in the area (Msunduzi Municipality, 2015:2). It is further indicated in the Msunduzi Municipality report (2015:2) that approximately 88% of the Jika Joe population originates from KwaZulu-Natal, 5% from other provinces and 7% originates from outside countries. For those who are from other countries, it could not be ascertained whether they had legal citizenship or legal documentation.

THE JIKA JOE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT TYPICAL “DUMP-SITE”



Source: Field Survey 2021

The majority of the Jika Joe population falls within the lower income bracket. They are employed as domestic workers, gardeners, retail and factory workers. Apart from the informal sector, a number of them survive by collecting recyclable goods for resale like bottles, plastics, cardboard and tins (Msunduzi Municipality, 2015:03). Such activities are classified as the informal sector. Social Grants generate the main steady income for senior citizens, the

physically challenged and the caregivers for children under 18 years of age. There are no crèches or preparatory schools to provide safe places for children below school-going age at the Jika Joe Informal Settlement. This has resulted in the majority of such children having to play unsupervised in the streets during the daytime, something with complications like exposure to drugs and other social ills. There are no decent shops in the area, but the community is reliant on the “Spaza Shops”, which are notorious for their minimal supplies.

Like most informal settlements, Jika Joe is in an area not suitable for residential purposes. But then, dwellers consider it a source of cheap accommodation. As a result of the non-involvement of the Municipality, no proper guidance could be given to the dwellers. The building material used is generally not of acceptable housing standards. At Jika Joe, the set-up, the environment, health and social behaviour pose threats to dwellers and chiefly most vulnerable children. Part of the area has no electricity, the whole area has no sanitation and no drainage system (Msunduzi Municipality, 2015:04). Electricity is a major challenge in this settlement as a majority of the dwellers use electricity that is illegally connected, thus causing electricity-induced fires yearly, especially in winter. “Houses are located on a floodplain, making such susceptible to flooding. The situation is worsened by the local dumping site, which is poorly managed (Msunduzi Municipality, 2015:04). These are but a few of the environmental threats resulting from the establishment and growth of the Jika Joe Informal Settlement.

Jika Joe is an epicentre of poverty. Residents “are desperately impoverished and live in constant fear” (Arde 2022). Dwellers are often scared of fire and electrocution through “improvised electrical connections known as *izinyokanyoka*, low-hanging wires that snake through the shacks” (Arde 2022). In 2021, the settlement recorded 11 cases of electrocution including 3 children (Arde 2022). The children are mostly vulnerable to electrocution because they play around and mingle with their parents and neighbour who engage in such

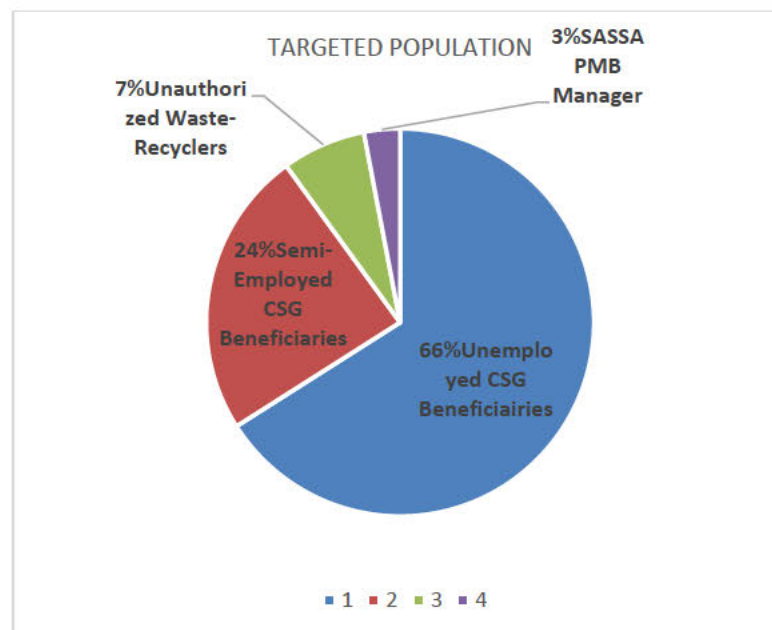
criminal activities. At times, the impoverished electricity cables are left opened thereby constituting high risk.

Sporadic protests by the Jika Joe Informal Settlement dwellers demanding improved service delivery in their area have drawn the tired attention of the Municipality of late. Most of the shack houses are now of corrugated iron sheeting, but it is a far cry from the Constitutional quest to restore dignity to all South Africans.

5.2.1 EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The researcher believes that the type of employment affects the way a respondent answers in the interview. The researcher, therefore, needed to know the status of employment for individual participants. Figure 4.1 below categorises the Jika Joe Informal Settlement participants according to their employment status.

Figure 4.1 CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT STATUS



Source: Generated by the researcher

Of the 29 respondents, 2 (7%) are collecting waste of metal or plastic material at dumpsites for recycling and to gain extra cash, 7 (24%) are working piece-jobs or working as domestic workers on part-time bases, but due to lock-down, they were not going to work and unsure as to whether they will ever be called again, 19 (66%) are completely unemployed and fully dependent on Child Support Grant and 1 (3%) respondent is from Pietermaritzburg SASSA Local Office. Evidently, in the study, there were no participants found to be full-time employed. Furthermore, the researcher could not get male participants who are beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant.

5.3 PERCEPTIONS OF JIKA JOE RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

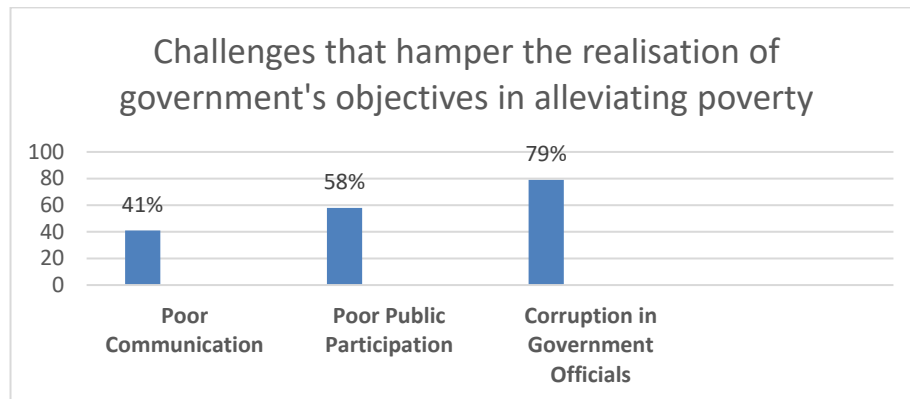
This section addresses the themes generated from the responses of 29 research respondents (19 Unemployed, 7 Semi-employed, and 2 waste recyclers) who are the beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant at the Jika Joe Informal Settlement area and one SASSA official. The research intended to gain an understanding of issues about the development programmes if any, and the challenges to the realisation to empower the beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant in the Jika Joe area. The study gathers knowledge, understanding and insight from those who are directly receiving Child Support Grant in order to enhance understanding of the impact of the Child Support Grant. The section, therefore, addresses the interview questions and responses from the beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant. Responses to individual questions are discussed below.

5.3.1 The Challenges associated with the realisation of the government's objectives in CSG as poverty alleviation strategy

Participants presented different challenges. Research participants identified some challenges identified certain factors militating against the realisation of the poverty alleviation objective of the CSG. The responses of the participants generated some factors and issues associated with the general theme of the

section under which the challenges- were discussed. These include poor communication and a lack of healthy relationship with local political leadership, poor public participation, and corruption *Figure 4.2* below classifies these challenges that hamper the realisation of the government's objectives in alleviating poverty.

FIGURE 4. 2 CLASSIFICATION OF CHALLENGES THAT HAMPER THE REALISATION OF GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVES IN ALLEVIATING POVERTY



Source: Generated by the researcher

5.3.1.1 POOR COMMUNICATION AND A LACK OF HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Communication is regarded as an element that plays an important role between society and the local leadership (Khanyile 2021). From the responses of the participants, this has remained a challenge. The participants believed that the situation is caused by the fact that since the Jika Joe Informal Settlement forms a very small portion of Ward 33, and is under the leadership of an opposition party, their voices are purposefully not heard since most Jika Joe residents' are affiliated with the ruling party. The participants were aggrieved about the local leadership, the councillor in particular. Their responses made it clear that there were divisions between the residents of the ward. The most likely reasons for the division is the alleged neglect and non-representation of residents in discussions and decision-making platforms. This suggests a huge gap between the leadership and the community on the ground.

Among the participants, 41% indicated that there was poor communication between the residents and the political leadership of the area. They believed that this has made it difficult for residents to engage the government on how to resolve the crisis of inadequate development which often jeopardises the realisation of the objectives of the government in assisting the people out of poverty. Members of the Jika Joe Informal Settlements were displeased with the development of the area, a situation they blamed on the inadequate communication between the people and the political leadership. They felt that the settlement was neglected because of their political inclination and support for the African National Congress (ANC). The Councillor of Ward 33 where the settlement is located is a member of the Democratic Alliance (DA).

To the research participants, the objectives of the CSG in the area would not be adequately realised in terms of development because they belonged to a different political party of the Ward Councillor. However, this perception is a manifestation of an inadequate understanding of the working of the government. Other participants did not agree with this perception. Rather, they blamed the municipal government for neglecting the area. Some of them also blamed the parlous state of the area for the nature of the location and the environment of the informal settlement hinder sustainable development. One participant said: "This environment is not conducive for meaningful commercial activities. People run away from this area because they think they would be hurt because of the nature of the people around this settlement". These expressions support previous media reports about the feasibility of sustainable development in the area.

The media reported that the area is like a landfill site, which is not habitable for commercial activities that could attract patrons or investors (Capa 2021). With no refuse bags or bins, Jika Joe residents claim they did not know what to do with their refuse and were forced to dump their waste in the middle of the informal settlement. Due to the ongoing dumping, part of the settlement resembles a landfill site (Capa 2021).

In this kind of environment, residents, especially children, are exposed to health hazards with no adequate healthcare service delivery. The essence of the CSG is to assist parents in the promotion of the well-being of their children. This is not realisable in this filthy environment. Hence, most parents are struggling to raise their children properly. Commercial activities, especially spaza shops for groceries and other basic needs at affordable prices could not survive as some of them were closed down because of the imposing health hazards. A resident recounted the experience thus:

We had a spaza shop here where we could buy fast food such as fried chips and other food, but it had to close down. It is terrible that we have to live with this filth because the government has not provided sanitation for the people. Our concern as residents is our health and the health of the children who play here, we could all get sick, the wind blows the rubbish into our shacks, and it is very difficult living here (cf. Capa 2021).

Residents in the neighbourhood of the settlement expressed similar concerns about the health hazards of the constant littering of the areas because of the failure of the government to attend to the sanitation needs of the people (Capa 2021). It was evident that the municipal government was overwhelmed by the piled-up wastes in the area with no adequate infrastructural arrangement to remove them. The nature of the environmental condition in the Jika Joe Informal Settlement is like a tinkling time bomb that has made the residents and neighbourhood, especially children, vulnerable to health hazards that could neutralise any meaningful intervention programmes and projects of the government to improve the well-being of the people.

5.3.1.2 POOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The South African Constitution, Act No (108 of 1996) specifically section 1, promotes the active involvement and participation of the citizenry. The constitution suggests that public service including the local sphere of government should consult all sectors of its community on services being

offered, as a fundamental element of democracy. Equally important, Creighton (2005:18-19) provides the benefits of public participation, including anticipating public concerns and attitudes. This is, however, not realised at Jika Joe as the research participants believe that they have been deprived of their Constitutional rights. They also voiced angrily the fact that there is a lack of participation in decision-making processes, which affects them negatively. A practical example is observed when part of Jika Joe's shacks was destroyed due to electrical faults, residents were informed that flats built next to the area would be made available to Jika Joe residents who could afford to pay the rent and electricity. The flats were never distributed to residents, which shows that the government fails to provide services that are a priority to them.

Participants indicated that the government did not involve the dwellers in the decision on the new flats. Among the participants, 58% indicated that poor participation is an obstacle to the realisation of the objectives of the CSG. The total development of children cannot take place in an environment characterized by fear and suspicion with no decent accommodation and poor sanitation. They believed that the government did not consider them as part of the community, hence they often resort to violent protests to drive home their demands and agitations.

In February 2022, citizens of the settlement embarked on violent protests demanding decent accommodation (Nxumalo 2022; Arde 2022). Government officials who went to meet with the protesters could not resolve the matter. It took the drafting of the military to the spots to disperse the protester (Nxumalo 2022). A resident of the settlement told the media that their protest was occasioned by poor participation of the dweller in the decisions of the government to provision RDP houses.

During the last meeting, it [was] clear that the mayor just came to tell us what they will do, rather than to listen to us about what we want. After that meeting, we realised that there is a need for us to continue with our struggle. That is why we decided to come here and poke the eye of the government to get their attention (cf. Nxumalo 2022).

Participants in this study indicated that the only language that would draw the attention of the government was violence. This is not healthy for the growing up of the children who are being exposed to a negative aspect of societal development. Impunity and deviance are the characteristic features of the lifestyle of the dwellers who seem to have no alternative to livelihood.

5.3.1.3 CORRUPTION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

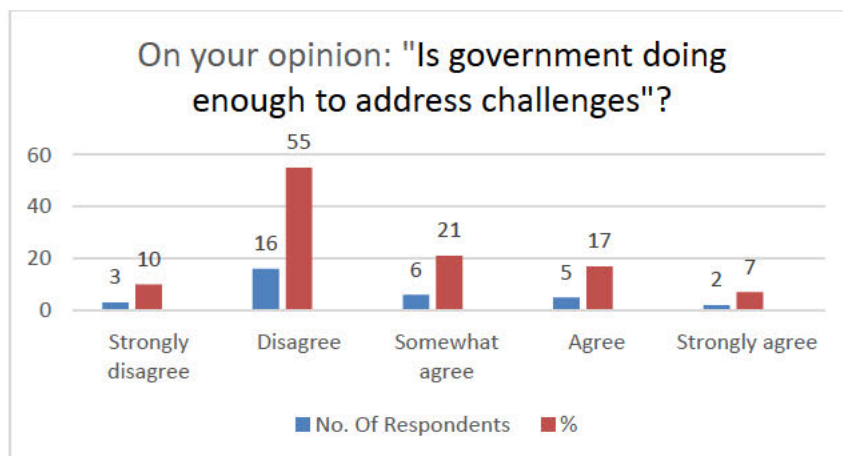
Corruption in South Africa, both in the public and private sectors, remains a challenge. According to Transparency International's 2012 Corruption Perceptions Index, South Africa is ranked 72nd among 177 countries (Tshishonga and De Vries, 2011:65). It is an indisputable fact that corruption is a political, social and economic phenomenon that affects developing countries the most. It contributes to government instability and promotes slow economic development. It is also a symptom of poor management of operations systems which then creates a space for corruption to thrive (Mthethwa, 2017:182). The participants explained in the research that even when government provides funds for services to be rendered in Jika Joe, those services do not reach the residents because government employees are greedy and use such funds for their gain. They strongly feel that they are purposefully neglected since they are deprived of their Constitutional right to have basic services, including water, electricity, well maintained sanitation and waste collection.

In figure 4.2, 79% of respondents indicated that corruption among government officials constitutes obstacles to the development of the area and therefore impacted the living conditions of the children. Respondents further complained about the corruption of government officials, specifically at the local level. From these results, it is also important to note that poor public participation in the next highest challenge. Of great concern is that these results seem to suggest that there is a lack of trust between the community and the government and

also a huge gap of representation on decision-making platforms. Though the government is committed to alleviating poverty, lack of communication between the local political leadership and the community members, poor public participation in decision making and corruption in government officials will always hinder the government from achieving the desired outcome at Jika Joe informal settlement. Prior studies have noted numerous challenges that hinder the government from alleviating poverty (Cruz, Quillin, and Schellekens 2015).

A majority of the participants (65%) perceived that the government was not doing well in ameliorating the plights of the beneficiaries of the CSG in the area. As shown in Figure 4.3, while 21% of respondents somewhat agreed that the government was doing well, 24 % agreed. ,

Figure 4.3 OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS ON WHETHER GOVERNMENT IS DOING ENOUGH TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES



Source: Generated by the researcher

The findings of the research suggest that the government is not doing enough to address these challenges. The majority of the respondents who believed that the government was not doing enough to address their challenges probably have had a terrible experience in raising their children in an

environment characterised by landmines of danger and suspicion. While the new residents had been constructed, it has been a difficult decision on the part of the government to allocate the flats because of the dilemma associated with the maintenance and payment of rates by residents. Besides, the allocation process has been characterised by confusion “and a lack of transparency over the recipients of the new units creates suspicion among residents that the flats will go to politically connected cronies” (Arde 2022). On the other hand, an official of the Msunduzi Municipality government had indicated that residents would soon move to the newly constructed houses.

It was agreed at the meeting that took place on Wednesday that the construction of temporary houses will continue as planned. It was further agreed that those whose verification processes have been completed, would move into the new flats as soon as they are ready for occupation (cf. Nxumalo 2022).

While this looks promising, dwellers did not see any ray of hope because of the associated rental payments by residents who do not have sustainable sources of income other than the dependence on the monthly CSG for those who are qualified. While only 170 dwellers had applied for the flats, it was not certain how many of them would be able to afford the chargeable rents which the government had insisted would be imposed because of the maintenance needs and the electricity and water rates (Arde 2022). The greatest fear of the dwellers is that government officials would allocate the flats to non-Jika Joe residents who would later sublet them to residents (Arde 2022).

This is part of the dysfunctional system identified by participants as the bane of the parlous state of the affairs in the areas with grave implications for the development of children. Participants highlighted weak systems as one of the causes of the high rate of corruption. Respondents further suggested that the government should ensure that their appointees adhere to the South African Constitution. Also, political leaders at the Ward level should only be those who live in the area and who experience the daily challenges of the residents.

5.3.2 Government programmes to parents receiving the Child Support Grant

This dysfunctional system becomes compounded with no tangible development programme other than the cash transfer to parents of the beneficiary children. All 29 (100%) participants indicated that government did not provide any development programmes to parents receiving the Child Support Grant.

Looking at the responses, the research suggests a lack of war room structures where such issues could be discussed. There is also poor collaboration between the private sector and the government, which negatively impacts the community. This lack of collaboration was occasioned by the fear of disruption of any meaningful enterprises in the area. With no hope of a good job, most residents are available instruments for criminal activities. This has heightened the sense of fear among dwellers who have “nowhere else to go” but depend on whatever they could grab when they “scavenge off the dump sites that litter the environment (Arde 2022).

5.3.3 Utilisation of the Child Support Grant in Jika Joe

The primary target of the CSG is to assist the parents of the beneficiary children. This is based on the assumption that such parents have alternative sources of income. Thus, the CSG is expected to supplement whatever incomes are accrued to the parents. Participants were asked to explain how much the Child Support Grant goes to address the needs of the children at home. Despite the much-vaunted success of the Child Support Grant as the largest cash transfer payment system in terms of the number of beneficiaries in South Africa (Tanga and Gutura, 2013), the responses of the participants also paint a bleak picture. Of the 29 participants, 19 (66%) confirmed to be unemployed and the Child Support Grant was the main source of income. At the time of the research, the government was paying R440 for each qualified

child. Table 2 below illustrates the responses of the respondents to the spending of the grant.

Table 2 RESPONSES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Respondents	Medical Care	Food	Transport	Clothing	Excursion	School	Other
Respondent 1		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Respondent 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Respondent 3		✓		✓		✓	

The illustration above shows how the beneficiaries stretch the grant for the needs of the child. Based on the responses from research participants, it can be concluded that although the beneficiaries can spend the money on the needs of the child, there are other basic needs that they fail to take care of, like medical care and excursions. They further explained that once the money is paid to the beneficiary, it becomes part of the family budget and supports every member of the family.

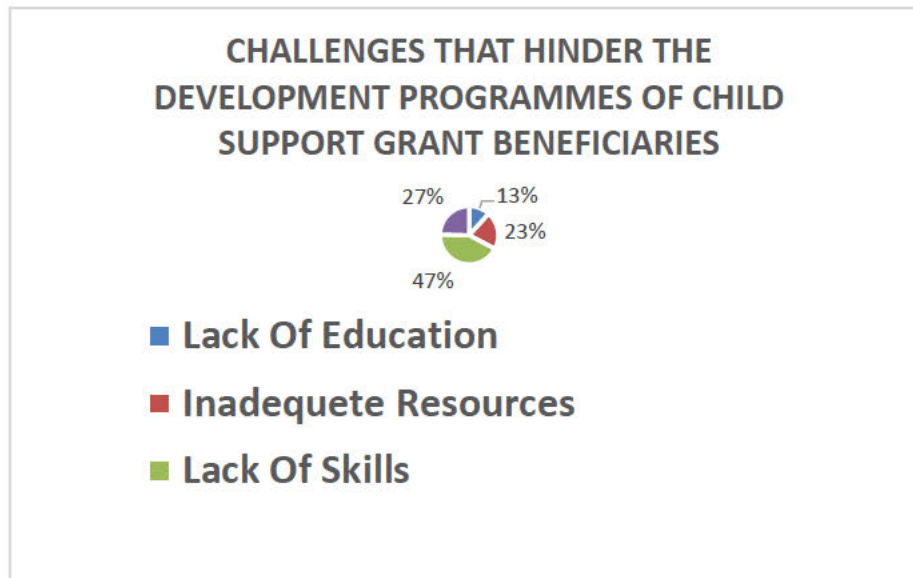
Given that most of the parents have no other sources of income, it is evident that the grant could not cater to the needs of the entire family, especially where there are other members of the extended family. Indeed, this is not the purpose of the CSG. The CSG was “designed to support poor households to promote food security” but this purpose was later broadened to become “an important social investment in children’s well-being” (Patel, Knijn, Gorman-Smith, Hochfeld, Isserow, Garthe, Chiba, Moodley, and Kgaphola 2017:6). This expansion was premised on the realisation of the need to cater to the nutritional contents of the food given the increased expenditure, the need to improve on school attendance of the children as some of them could not go to school because of the inability of the parents to provide food package for them. The consequence of these challenges on the school progress of the children gave rise to the government’s further commitment and strategies to ensure that the children benefited maximally from the programme. Thus, family members depending on the grants defeated the intended purpose of the government.

The participants argued that the top-up of R500 to every Child Support Grant beneficiary should be made permanent. This was not because it would advance the interests of the children who are the direct beneficiaries of the fund but the interests of family members who depend on it as the main source of income of the households. Most of the parents do not have other means of livelihood. Unemployment is high in the Jika Joe Settlement. The CSG was to serve as mere assistance to households of children with lower incomes. Such was meant to reduce the costs of the basic needs of the children usually provided by the parents. In other words, the government did not design the CSG as the source of family income to cater to the basic needs of everyone. It is evident, therefore, that unemployment is a major setback to the realisation of the poverty alleviation objective of the CSG. This unemployment factor is a function of the capacity of the parents, as noted in the next section.

5.3.4 Factors that hinder the development programmes of parents of the Child Support Grant recipients

Even though there is no feasible empowerment programme for parents of the children earmarked to receive the CSG, participants were pessimistic about the prospect of such an initiative, based on their incapacity. The participants claimed that lack of education, inadequate resources, a lack of skills and employment opportunities were listed as the major impediments to any development programme for the parents. Figure 4.3 below shows the responses of the participants.

FIGURE 3.4 CLASSIFICATION OF CHALLENGES THAT HINDER THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES OF THE CHILD SUPPORT GRANT BENEFICIARIES



Source: Generated by the researcher

In 1994, when the new South African democratic government was elected, many challenges were to be addressed, including unemployment, poverty, universal social security, limited health care and housing, to name a few (Mthethwa, 2017:175). The South African Government worked tirelessly to address these challenges by advocating the creation of jobs, the provision of essential services such as social welfare, education, housing and health care. However, the elephant in the room is that failure to obtain employment usually reduces income and consumption (Mbuli, 2008:87). Some challenges raised by the research participants are indicated in the pie chart above. The research participants mentioned lack of education, inadequate resources, lack of skills and lack of employment opportunities as the main challenges that hinder the development programmes of Child Support Grant beneficiaries.

Forty-Seven percent (47%) of research participants mentioned a lack of skills as the main barrier to development. They mentioned that there are no places in the area where they could improve skills like sewing, cooking, baking, and

agricultural activities. This challenge has increased the rate of unemployment. With no formal education, informal skills that could make them self-employed would have assuaged a lot of domestic expenses. Thus, the lack of education to acquire requisite skills, formal and informal, makes the parents and caregivers vulnerable and the pressure to depend on the CSG as the main source of household expenses. This is contrary to the intended purpose of the CSG. And the government did not address this challenge as a solution to the constant failure of the policy. With no employment to sustain the households, the CSG has become the succour for the entire household.

The participants alluded to this fact in their responses, noting that the dearth of employment hindered the inherent development programmes for Child Support Grant beneficiaries. Twenty-Seven percent cent (27%) of research participants reported that they are unemployed and are solely depending on a CSG. They further mentioned that they have no formal skills and qualifications. As a result, it is very difficult to be employed. In addition, twenty-three percent (23%) of research participants indicated that Jika Joe Informal Settlement has inadequate resources like a skills development centre or opportunities for people to share knowledge. The findings suggest few chances for participants to compete in the open labour market, hence the prevalent phenomenon of most employed residents competing in low-rate jobs.

The SASSA official noted this as a major challenge to the effectiveness of the CSG in Jika Joe. According to the official, what could have been recorded as the effectiveness or achievement of the CSG in the Jika Joe Settlement was lost to the wrong utilisation of the funds. The SASSA Official said: “The challenge, however, is that it (CSG) ends up being the only source of income for most households in the area”. In other words, while the SASSA makes regular payments to the CSG beneficiaries as a form of assistance, the parents of the child or the caregiver, considered it as the monthly income for the entire household. For parents, especially women working in the informal sector, with irregular or unpredictable income, the CSG remains the major stable source of

income for household needs. Luthuli, Haskins, Mapumulo, and Horwood (2022:6) discovered that “the CSG was important as a reliable income source to provide for essentials” among women who were engaged in informal work with irregular and unpredictable income. “In particular, while the mother was not working before and after the birth of her child, the CSG received for older children was vital in providing for household and baby needs (Luthuli et al. 2022:6).

Indeed, the SASSA official disclosed that the payments of the CSG “is the main source of economic activity in the area and thus, the community is dependent on CSG for survival”. In this case, with the expectation of regular payments amid the lack of employment or other regular and reliable sources of income in the households, the intended purpose of the CSG in Jika Joe is defeated. Hence the prevalence of poverty and poor health conditions of the children.

Beyond the improper utilisation or misuse of the CSG, the SASSA Official said that the value of the money was not sufficient to cater to the needs of the concerned child. “Because it ends up feeding the whole family instead of the child concerned, the direct beneficiaries end up not benefiting maximally from the grant” (SASSA Official). In addition to this, as an informal settlement with an influx of undocumented foreigners, many households in Jika Joe were not entitled to the grant and other services of SASSA.

The misuse of the CSG is not limited to the Jika Joe Settlement. But participants denied spending the grant on personal use. They explained that the grant is not enough to cater to the child’s needs. The response of the participants did not tally with reality. Since most of them do not have other sustainable. Indeed the government is aware of this challenge of the misuse of the CSG and considered it a violation of the rights of the child (SA News 19 April 2021). Reiterating that the CSG “is aimed at helping parents provide for the basic needs of a child”, the government “reminded parents and guardians who misuse the grant that they are violating the rights of a child” (SA News 19 April 2021). Any deviation from the purpose of supporting the child’s needs, according to the Social Assistance Act, will be deemed as abuse or neglect to the child and classified as a criminal act, which is punishable by law. Starving a child due to parents or guardians’ social needs is a destruction to the future of the country.” In

addition, SASSA said a person who takes care of a child on daily basis must receive the grant payment. If the grant is received by the parent, who does not stay with a child not transfer the money to the caregiver, that person must be reported to SASSA offices and also open a criminal case at the local police station (cf. SA News 19 April 2021).

While it might be difficult to identify those who are engaged in the misuse of the grant, the government appealed to people "who witness the misuse of grants not to keep quiet - whether within a family or in communities" to assist the government to curb the development. This might be a tall order in Jika Joe Settlement as the social-economic conditions and environment in the area seem hostile to citizens who have no other sources of income.

From all indications, the CSG is a good policy to ameliorate the challenges associated with the discriminatory policies of the apartheid regimes which affected the children most. Different assessment reports and research findings of the CSG indicated the importance of the policy and its impacts on the development of children from vulnerable homes. In 2012, the assessment of the CSG was jointly carried out by the UNICEF and the Department of Social Development (DSD) and it was noted that the CSG "is an important instrument of social protection in South Africa, reaching over 10 million South African children each month" (Department Of Social Development (DSD), South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and UNICEF 2012). Similarly, Patel, Hochfeld, Ajefu and Bryer (2018) noted in their report that the CSG had assisted vulnerable children to access healthcare facilities and education.

Scholars have also examined the CSG and reported its positive impacts on the intended beneficiaries if well managed and expended (Agüero, Carter, and Woolard 2007; Bhorat and Cassim 2014; Coetzee 2013; 2014). Nevertheless, this grant alone is not sufficient to cater to the totality of the well-being of vulnerable children and mostly, the beneficiaries.

While the CSG as a social protection programme has been very successful, cash transfers alone are not enough to meet the needs of children to support child wellbeing. Child wellbeing must be considered broadly, in the context of the social environment

and support structures surrounding the grant recipient (Patel et al 2018:3).

The CSG is just a supplement to complement what the households could provide in catering to the needs of the child. This means that its effectiveness would depend on the availability of other items and social infrastructures that support household upkeep of the households. The SASSA Official expressed a similar sentiment regarding Jika Joe. “The CSG would go a long way in helping the community of Jika Joe if it could also be supplemented by decent housing, school uniforms and health care programmes” (SASSA Official). The implication of this is that the CSG as a good policy is not comprehensive enough to cater to the needs of the child. Even though this limitation is explicit in the legislative frameworks of the CSG, there is a need to reassess the environment and the context of its implementation to ensure that the intended purpose is achieved even if it requires amendments to the statute or to improvement on the enabling environment.

Patel et al (2018:3) noted that despite the recorded successes associated with the delivery of services in the social protection programme, especially the CSG, “many children continue to live in poverty in South Africa, with negative impacts on their wellbeing”. This negative assessment arises from the lack of understanding of “how the context in which grant recipients live – their family, social and community structures – interacts with grant receipt” (Patel et al 2018:3).

Consequently, policy makers do not have a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms through which grants influence well-being outcomes. This has implications for policymakers wishing to scale-up the positive impact of grants and to improve outcomes for grant recipients” (Patel et al. 2018:3).

Even though the SASSA Official who participated in this study acknowledged the fact that the programme was well-intended for the people and that it had a positive impact on recipients in the Jika Joe Settlement, nevertheless, the context of the implementation posed a monumental hindrance. Poverty and

unemployment are the two major challenges to the realisation of the objectives of the program. Poverty alleviation would afford vulnerable parents to take good care of their children with the support of the little CSG. Nevertheless, the Jika Joe Settlement is fraught with visible criminal activities in an unsecured environment, a situation that hinders development in the area. The high rate of crime, the absence of policing system and activities, and the lack of basic social infrastructures such as decent housing, electricity, water, safety and sanitation, compounded the problem of development with no day-care facilities and schools for children. This environmental factor renders CSG as a poverty alleviation strategy ineffective.

Since the CSG is to supplement the parents, there are no specific items that the grant should be expended on. The final question for the interview schedule for the Child Support Grant beneficiaries requested participants to indicate the specific items on which they spend the grant money for their personal use such as doing hair and buying clothes. The intention was to determine whether participants spend the CSG more on their personal needs than on the child.

This would necessitate the development of programmes that would empower the caregivers/parents and family members of the beneficiary children. There are no other support programmes and activities to assist these dependants who have considered the CSG as their main source of income. The SASSA Official was evasive on the specific programmes for the parents and members of the family of the children. Even though the official explained that Jika Joe was well-serviced, it was not clear the context of such services. Only exceptional cases like foreigners who could not produce legal documents pose challenges. The responses suggest that SASSA provides services to Jika Joe Informal Settlement. Thus, in the absence of any sustainable poverty alleviation programmes aimed at empowering the people, cash transfers alone would remain the source of livelihood for parents and family members ravaged by poverty, thereby compounding the problem of the children.

Apart from the misuse of the CSG, unemployed parents would not hesitate to engage in criminal activities to augment their living conditions. Reports of such criminal activities in the Jika Joe Settlement abound. For instance, illegal electricity connections in the settlement led to several explosions of electricity facilities that plunged residents of nearby settlements into darkness (Xulu 2022). Since the residents could not afford the money for electricity, they preferred to tamper with the electricity mini-substation for illegal connection. The settlement does not have an independent source of electricity but the facilities are allocated to ratepayers who pay their electricity bills (Xulu 2022).

The Jika Joe Settlement is a mix of the realities of poverty and inadequate development in the country. Located within Pietermaritzburg, the Capital of KwaZulu-Natal Province, the settlement is a haven for criminal activities.

There are young people in this place who have resorted to whatever means are at hand to carve out an existence in this mix of culture and African languages. Jika Joe while having a reputation as a dirty, lawless and dangerous place, Jika Joe is also a home space and families live here too (Robinson 2020). The absence of meaningful infrastructural facilities in the area compounds criminal activities. Overcrowding in an unhygienic environment constitutes health hazards to residents. The replacement of the shacks at Jika Joe by the government “with long rows of sheet metal temporary housing that lock many families into a faltering system of government low-cost housing that is far away from places of work that many of these people just can’t afford to rent” has reinforced the criminal volatility in the area (Robinson 2020). Hence, CSG without conscious efforts at improving the housing condition in the area would mean raising children for criminal gangs. Both the residents and the SASSA Official who participated in the study alluded to this fact.

As laudable as the CSG programme is, its effectiveness as a means of providing the needed support to disadvantaged children could not be ascertained until the necessary supporting infrastructural facilities are

available. The SASSA Official agreed that the CSG could be effective to an extent but that it is not sufficient to realise the overarching objective of the government as a means of poverty alleviation. While it is like a palliative, participants suggested that the government should invest more in meaningful development projects and programmes that would empower citizens to stop their dependence on the monthly cash transfer that has remained a form of entitlement.

5.4 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This study was designed to examine the impact of the Child Support Grant and poverty alleviation at the Jika Joe Informal Settlement. The main purpose of this section is to outline the research findings.

5.4.1 Development programmes aimed at empowering the Child Support Grant beneficiaries at the Jika Joe informal settlement.

Questions were posed to the research participants aimed at determining their perception of the government's development programmes. The intention was to understand whether there are programmes placed by the government to empower Jika Joe citizens. Sherraden (2018) points out that development programmes aim at promoting the economic and social development of families and households and their active participation at work. The importance of development programmes is also emphasised in the New Growth Path (2011), which is an economic framework that combines government programmes to achieve development, inclusive growth and decent work for the citizens. These findings have also been corroborated by other scholars.

The Jika Joe Informal Settlement is situated in an area that had not originally been earmarked for residential use. This places the area at a disadvantage as infrastructure is either non-existent or inadequate to support any development in the area. The responses from research participants may be misleading in

some respects, but generally speaking, there is general ignorance in respect of the programmes available to the citizenry at large. The research participants appear to have expected something specific to Jika Joe. The government, through various departments, provides programmes that are aimed to better the lives of citizens. Some of these are:

5.4.1.1. The Department of Education

South Africa provides free education in almost all public schools. Most public schools fall under the No Fees category, and education is free in these schools. The level of poverty at Jika Joe qualifies the majority of the children for free education to at least up to the Secondary level of education.

When the child reaches a higher education level, the National Students Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), benefits and empowers such students generally found at Jika Joe. It must, however, be said that it may also hinge on whether one is prepared to take the opportunity and whether the circumstances are generally conducive to allowing that.

5.4.1.2 The Department of Health

The public health system in South Africa is by and large free. This also presents itself as a programme that benefits those in receipt of CSG. The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) has a programme in collaboration with the Department of Health in terms of which Health identifies malnourished children and refers those to SASSA for a Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant. This is referred to as Zero Hunger SRD and the identified child can receive it even whilst in receipt of the normal Child Support Grant for a period of 6 consecutive months. This is another programme, which ensures that the beneficiary can respond positively in cases of malnourishment.

5.4.1.3 The Department of Social Development

The Department of Social Development in Pietermaritzburg provides integrated developmental social welfare services where they partner with stakeholders and local organisations to assist those in need. The Department also provides sustainable development programmes which are intended to empower communities, including youth and women.

The formation of Jika Joe Informal Settlement remains a challenge. The shortage of space means that important agricultural programmes cannot be implemented in the area. Again, the lack of infrastructure like halls also means that other ad hoc Government interventions cannot be rendered consistently in the area. The findings suggest collaboration on engineering projects that will develop the whole community to ensure that efforts of the government are elevated to a higher level. Since the welfare does not assist the single parents who are in poverty because of unemployment, the introduction of the Basic Income Grant would allow everyone with none or low income at Jika Joe to benefit.

5.4.2 Challenges to the realisation of empowering the Child Support Grant beneficiaries at Jika Joe informal settlement

The objective of the study is to determine the challenges to empowering beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant at Jika Joe. Research participants were able to cough out a mouthful regarding the challenges that disempower them in the Jika Joe community. Seventy- Nine percent (79%) of respondents felt that rampant corruption on the side of authorities was the cause of the dire straits they found themselves in. The community is of the view that Government is not doing enough in the area. Fifty-five percent (55%) of respondents were of this view. The main reasons furnished appear to stem from the fact that the Ward is in the hands of the opposition party which appears to care less for their grievances. There is also a view that most leaders

were parachuted from elsewhere and did not have the interest of the community at heart. There is generally poor public participation in decision-making wherein decisions are taken without the community being consulted.

The respondents believe that they are neglected by the government since they are unable to access basic services like water, electricity, safe sanitation and a decent place to stay. This results in a high rate of housebreaking in the area. The act of crime, as mentioned by participants, leaves them in fear to create small businesses like “Spaza Shops” in the area. But it is established in the study that the residents are notorious for using illegal electricity connections. Jika Joe residents claim that they do not have the means to pay for services and are being side-lined by the government. The argument remained debated since uMsunduzi Municipality provides payable basic services to the communities.

There appeared to be a wave of deep-seated anger in the community because Flats were built next to their area, and promises were made to move them into those flats. This was, however, changed midway through such that they no more stand to benefit anymore. The flats in question should be handed to this community because of the alleged promises and the proximity of the flats to the settlement. This would also improve their situation and possibly prevent future feuds with those coming from outside the area to occupy the flats.

Midgley (2018) elaborates in his study that for South Africa to achieve development goals, policies will need to place great emphasis on skills development, education and job creation. This is highly unlikely to be realized at Jika Joe. The respondents believe that a general lack of skills in the area minimises their ability to compete favourably in the open labour market. This has resulted in high unemployment levels, which exacerbate social ills in the area. This could be confirmed by the negligible number of those who have gone past Matric in the area.

The research participants further pointed out that there are co-operatives to share skills like baking and sewing. There is, however, inadequate capacity for this to have any meaningful impact on the community. Most importantly, the research noted during the interviews that no microeconomic goals are driving the community to invest together to achieve greater development of households and communities. This may suggest that moving the residents to a better environment may change their morale since currently, nothing is promising to happen around them.

5.4.3 Examine the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation component of CSG in the Jika Joe informal settlement.

It came clearly during the research interviews that food, school and clothing were top of the list of things that the Child Support Grant money is used for. This indicates that Child Support Grant is very effective in the alleviation of poverty in the area. The mere fact that there is high unemployment in the area points to the fact that the Child Support Grant is central to the survival of the majority of the members of this community.

According to the SASSA respondent, they have ensured that the place is fully serviced such that all those eligible for Child Support Grant are receiving the grant. However, it was detected that there was a prevalence of children who were not benefiting, as beneficiaries had applied and taken the card away. In most cases, it was found that no one was willing to initiate the process of taking over the grant. SASSA assured the researcher that they normally deal promptly with such cases if reported to them. Regarding the foreigners in the area, it was again indicated by SASSA that all South African-born children are eligible for the grant regardless of the status of the parent. This supports the conclusion that the CSG has been elevated to a status where one can say that it is accessible and goes a long way in alleviating poverty if utilised correctly.

The study found contradictory views with regard to whether the Child Support Grant is effective for the beneficiaries or not. There was an element of fear in

some respondents which made me uncomfortable with some of the responses. More research is still needed to determine whether the Child Support Grant is indeed an effective tool in the alleviation of poverty at Jika Joe. This is strengthened by the fact that during the interviews, there was a temporary R500.00 top-up on the Child Support Grant payment which may have affected the responses to a certain degree.

The study established that there are no sustainable programmes at Jika Joe to address poverty among beneficiaries on their own. On the other hand, the Child Support Grant aims to provide for the basic needs of the child. The study established that the families of the research participants, comprising more than five members in a household, most depend on this grant. This common phenomenon in the area compromises the noble objective of the government to alleviate poverty through the Child Support Grant.

5.5 CONCLUSION

Deliberations in this chapter were centred on the historical background of the Jika Joe Informal Settlement. The chapter further discussed the data generated from interviews with residents of the Jika Joe Settlement and the SASSA official. Questions posed to Jika Joe participants namely, to identify challenges that could hamper the realisation of the government's objectives in alleviating poverty. Secondly, to explain if the government is doing enough to address these challenges. Thirdly, to indicate whether the development programmes provided by Government if any, make any mark to parents receiving the Child Support Grant.

Fourthly participants were requested to explain how much the Child Support Grant goes to address the needs of children at home. Participants were further requested to indicate challenges that hinder the development programmes of parents of the Child Support Grant recipients in the area of Jika Joe Informal Settlement. The last question posed was related to how the beneficiaries

spend the Child Support Grant. Responses were presented graphically and some were categorized into themes. Lastly, the chapter presented the responses from the SASSA Manager of Pietermaritzburg Local Office to gain perspective of SASSA as the administrators of the Child Support Grant on behalf of the government.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

South Africa is a democratic country that, among others, is committed to fighting the social ills facing its citizens. The country introduced the Child Support Grant to beef up its tools for effectively eradicating poverty. The Sustainable Development Goals have a common goal with the Child Support Grant, which is to alleviate poverty, fight hunger and reduce inequality. The South African Constitution (1996), particularly Section 27 (1) (C), gives grounds to Social Assistance, “....*everyone has a right to have access to, social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents, appropriate social assistance*”. In this context, this chapter brings the synopsis of previous chapters and goes further to deliberate on the findings of the study and lastly make recommendations.

6.2 SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

Chapter 1 presented the background of the study which deliberates on the government’s prioritized social ills, which are the outcome of imbalances of the past. It further draws in the Child Support Grant as a vital tool that the government introduced to alleviate poverty. It also presented the research problem, aim and objectives.

The research aimed at examining the Child Support Grant and Poverty Alleviation at Jika Joe Informal Settlement. The chapter explained problems in realizing the positive impact of the Child Support Grant. The prevalence of social ills alone, as a result of the unsuitable location of the settlement, has dwarfed the positive impact of the CSG alleviation program. Noticeably, approximately 12.8 million South Africans (65%) live below the poverty line, which increases poverty levels in the country at large. The three objectives of

the study were presented and summarized as: (i) to examine the development programmes aimed to empower the Child Support Grant recipients living at Jika Joe Informal Settlement, (ii) to identify if there are challenges that hinder the realisation of government's objectives in poverty alleviation at Jika Joe informal settlement and (iii) to examine the effectiveness of the poverty alleviation component of the Child Support Grant in Jika Joe.

Chapter 2 of the study reviewed the literature from previous studies to understand their perspective on poverty. The research summarized common factors that contribute to poverty into four themes, “high unemployment rate”, “inadequate infrastructure”, “elusive zero hunger”, and “rampant corruption”. The study also deliberated on and compared social assistance programmes provided in other developing countries, including Bangladesh, Brazil, Gambia, Malawi, Namibia, and Thailand, while analysing the Legislative Framework encapsulating CSG in the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

A comparison between Bangladesh and South Africa reveals that Bangladesh is one of those countries that pioneered the conditional Cash Transfer system. One of the key objectives of this system in Bangladesh is to encourage Secondary education among females. Graham and Mlatsheni (2016:51-59), revealed that in South Africa, young females without tertiary education constitute a big part of those unemployed. This suggests that there are no similar programmes in South Africa that motivate females to attain secondary education. Similarly, in Brazil, the Child Labour Eradication programme was introduced to target households whose parents are employed in very degrading and hazardous areas of the country. The purpose of this grant is to future focussed to stop the cycle of poverty in such households. Also, in South Africa, Social Assistance Programmes, specifically Child Support Grant is believed to have been heralded as a leading Social Assistance initiative in South Africa, and one of the largest social assistance programmes internationally. This claim has remained questionable since 62% of children in South Africa live under the poverty line facing a likelihood of malnourishment

(Hall et al., 2017). It can be concluded that the main objective of the Sustainable Development Goals (2030) and the Child Support Grant, to alleviate poverty in the country, remains elusive.

Chapter 3 explained the research methodology employed in the study. The research methodology provides a well-planned procedure followed by the researcher to carefully select data-gathering methods, which may be either qualitative, quantitative, or both. For this study, the researcher employed a qualitative research method to obtain validated empirical data that will add to the body of knowledge.

Chapter 4 of the research reflected the historical background of Jika Joe Informal Settlement. The chapter presented the data and discussed the perceptions of research participants by highlighting the various challenges faced by the research participants and the government that ultimately hamper the realization of the objectives of the Child Support Grant at Jika Joe.

6.3 IMPLICATIONS

These findings present a new understanding of the Child Support Grant as a component that aims at alleviating poverty. They will serve as a basis for future researchers who may want to explore more suitable programmes for beneficiaries who are solely dependent on the Child Support Grant. The findings may be of assistance to the local leadership, stakeholders and private companies.

6.4 SUMMARY

The present study was designed to interrogate the nature and effectiveness of the Child Support Grant as a poverty alleviation programme at the Jika Joe Informal settlement. This chapter has presented the summary of chapters for the entire dissertation and deliberated on findings. The study has shown that development programmes cater to beneficiaries who are dependent on the Child Support Grant. The poverty levels at Jika Joe suggest that more development programmes need to be implemented to ensure that the situation is turned around.

It has also been shown that the capacity of the Child Support Grant to effectively alleviate poverty is further curtailed as a result of family composition. This results in the grant being shared by the whole family. There is a sizeable percentage of undocumented foreign nationals who are unable to access grants. The effect of this state of affairs is that it nullifies the gains made through the introduction of the Child Support Grant.

The study has also shown that most members of the Jika Joe community lack skills; hence they work as domestic workers, waste collectors, or general workers. The study also revealed a lack of microeconomic goals like having cooperatives, which would allow them to financially develop together as a community.

Subsequently, based on the results and objectives of the study, this study presents the following recommendations. Firstly, the study recommends that Jika Joe Informal Settlement residents should seriously consider the importance of collaborating in engineering projects that will benefit them as a community. Secondly, the government needs to consider the implementation of the Basic Income Grant, which will address the challenge of unemployed beneficiaries. Thirdly, the government must provide residents with decent

housing, which include seriously considering handing the flats promised to the residents.

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3rd March 2020

Student number: 21448351

Dear Ms N.M. Xaba

MASTER OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

This serves to confirm the approval of your research proposal by the Faculty Research Committee, at its meeting on 3rd March 2020, as follows:

1. Research proposal and provisional dissertation title:

Child Support grant and poverty alleviation in Jika Joe informal settlement

Supervisor: Dr O. Fagbadebo

Co-supervisor: N/A

Please note that any proposed changes in the thesis/dissertation title require the approval of your supervisor/s, the Faculty Research Committee, as well as ratification thereof by the Higher Degrees Committee.

2. Research budget to the amount of R10 000.00

Please note that this funding is not a scholarship or bursary and is therefore not paid directly to you, but is controlled by the Faculty. Any proposed changes to the use of this funding allocation requires the approval of your supervisor and the Dean. Please note that funding will be reimbursed to you after the provision of receipts.

The Institutional Research Committee has stipulated that:

- (a) This University retains the ownership of any Intellectual Property (patent, design, etc.) registered in respect of the results of your Masters/Doctors Degree in Technology studies as a result of the award and the provisions of the above Act;
- (b) Should you find any of the terms above not acceptable then you are given the option to decline the Research budget award to your project in writing.

May we remind you that in terms of Rule G25(2)(b), if you fail to obtain the Masters/Doctors degree within the maximum time period allowed after first registering for the qualification, Senate may refuse to renew your registration or may impose any conditions it deems fit. You may apply to the Faculty Research Committee for an extension.

Please note that you are required to convert your registration from the informal to the formal course and re-register each year.

Please note that the following must be adhered to:

Registration:

1. Ensure formal registration has taken place *(the onus is on the student and the supervisor to ensure registration takes place at the beginning of each year whilst the student is currently engaged with his/her Masters or PhD qualification)*
2. Ensure that application for Conferment of Status has been made in the event of your undergraduate qualification being different to this application. *Your attention is drawn to the fact that Conferment of Status is required for registration.*
3. Ensure that your supervisor has submitted your proposal to the Faculty Research Officer (FRO) for IREC clearance (institutional research ethics committee). This is in the case of Ethics level 2 IREC and level 3 IREC (in the case of a study dealing with vulnerable populations). See guideline attached. *It is the researcher's responsibility to check the Ethics requirements and submit to the relevant bodies irrespective of the reviewer's recommendation.*

Dissertation submission for examination:

1. Ensure that you submit the intention to submit form (PG 5), signed by the HOD and Supervisor
2. Ensure that the signed checklist is submitted with the PG 5
3. Once your dissertation is submitted to the supervisor for examination purposes, communication from here on will only be with you supervisor and not with the faculty.
4. Your supervisor **MUST** nominate the examiners three months prior to submission of the dissertation/thesis for examination.
5. On submission for examination, please note that three ring bound signed copies must be submitted to your supervisor along with the completed and signed PG 7 form, **FMS Checklist** and **Turn it in report**.
6. Feedback will be provided to your supervisor regarding the examination result after the result is ratified by the Higher Degrees Committee (HDC).
7. In the event of a resubmission the reports will be submitted to the supervisor who will communicate with you for revision. Once revision has taken place your supervisor will submit to the FRO for resubmission to the examiners.
8. In the case where there is a discrepancy in examiners results, an Arbitrator will be nominated via the HOD and supervisor and tabled at FRC and ratified at HDC. On completion of this process, the Arbitrator's report will be tabled at FRC and ratified at HDC.
9. Results of the Arbitration process will be communicated to your supervisor

Graduation requirements:

1. Ensure that you submit a completed signed PG10 form
2. one hard bound dissertation/thesis with a pdf version on CD
3. response to post graduate examination form
4. completion of study form (IREC form)

Should you experience any problems relating to your research, your supervisor must be informed of the matter as soon as possible. If the difficulties persist, you should then approach your Head of Department and thereafter the Faculty Research Coordinator.

Please refer to the 2020 General Rule Book and the Postgraduate Students' Guide 2020 concerning the rules relating to postgraduate studies, which include *inter alia* acceptable minimum and maximum timeframes, submission of thesis/dissertations, etc. Please do not hesitate to contact this office for any assistance. We wish you success in your studies.

Kind regards,

.....
Prof FG Netzers
Faculty of Management Sciences

ANNEXURE B



Regional Executive Manager
SASSA KZN
1 Bank Street
Pietermaritzburg
3201

Faculty of Management Sciences
Durban University of Technology
Durban
4000

Dear Ms Ntombizoske Maureen Xaba,

RE : REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY WITHIN THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA)

I acknowledge receipt of your letter requesting permission to conduct research at SASSA KwaZulu-Natal on "*Child support grant and poverty alleviation in Jike Jike informal settlement*". SASSA is a progressive Agency which promotes research that enhances knowledge and development. Please be advised that permission is granted for you to undertake this study in the offices of SASSA in KZN. Please present this letter when you access SASSA offices or engage with staff.

Of important note for you as you embark on this project is that SASSA cannot decree to its officials, customers, beneficiaries and stakeholders whether or not to participate in your research study. However, information that you will obtain from SASSA officials and beneficiaries should be treated with confidentiality whether in terms of the storage of data, analysis or during the publication process. It is advisable to remove identifiers such as names, vernacular terms and geographical hints when writing up your dissertation. Furthermore, SASSA cannot guarantee your safety as you go around its premises and does not promise you funding of your research study at any given stage.

The monitoring and evaluation department at SASSA Head Office will provide you with statistical information and approved reports on your subject matter of study if requested, and if information is available. I wish to thank you for choosing SASSA to collect data for your study and will request that you provide the Agency with two copies of the final approved dissertation. Please also ensure that you provide an electronic copy of the report on pdf for it to be uploaded to the research repository of the Agency. You will also be expected to present your findings and recommendations to the regional management committee (REMANCO) at a date that will be communicated to you once your final dissertation has been submitted.

Regards,

Mr Zinoradio Mpela
(A) Regional Executive Manager
SASSA KZN

Date 26/06/2017

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