

**THE ROLE OF CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN MANAGING HIV &
AIDS IN RURAL SCHOOLS: A CASE OF KUMBA RESOURCES CORPORATE
SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN MUTALE MUNICIPALITY**

by

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines the role of corporate social investment in managing HIV & AIDS in rural schools: A case of Kumba resources corporate social investment (CSI) in Mutale municipality.

This study uses both qualitative and quantitative designs to examine the role played by CSI in the management of HIV & AIDS in rural schools. Rural schools demand special attention by virtue of their low levels of social capital which is evidenced in a broad range of variables, including high poverty levels, disadvantaged under-resourced geographical location, difficulty in acquiring basic social services, the low participation rate of such communities in education, lack of basic literacy in general, absence of social welfare staff and other such related concerns.

Data were collected through the following strategies: questionnaires which were completed by 59 participants, individual interviews of 1-2 hours each where five school principals, five HIV & AIDS coordinators and ten teachers participated, and focus group interview with two school principals, two HIV & AIDS coordinators and six teachers.

Quantitative data from the questionnaires was analysed through the Statistical package (SPSS) version 16 and qualitative data from individual and focus group interviews were analysed through thematic and the case study type analysis. The following four major themes emerged:

- 1. The impact of HIV & AIDS is felt by both teachers and learners*
- 2. Involvement of CSI in the education sector in Mutale Municipality is a powerful move towards managing the HIV & AIDS pandemic.*
- 3. Direct support to the affected and infected is desired*
- 4. School leadership and effective monitoring of sponsored funds.*

It is acknowledged that case study methods have their own shortcomings regarding subjectivity, internal validity or trustworthiness, and external validity or generalizability. The shortcomings of this study were addressed and triangulated through the use of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, and through the use of multiple data collection tools, i.e., questionnaires, individual and focus group interviews, as well as use of different types of participants, i.e., school principals, HIV & AIDS coordinators and teachers.

As well, ethical issues such as consent from subjects, protecting subjects from harm, and the right to have privacy were addressed. Several recommendations were suggested based on the major findings of the study.