

Government intervention strategies in HIV/AIDS child-headed households: a case study of Sekhukhune District Municipality

by

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ABSTRACT

The scourge of HIV and AIDS is not only a problem to the infected individuals, but also a major concern to the society at large. As it is known, most breadwinners are dying in large number and this gives birth to the increasing numbers of their children as orphans. As numbers of orphans increase, so is the number of challenges that the government finds itself in. Coping with rapid increase in orphanhood and child-headed households poses a major challenge to the government. The government tries all it can to intervene in the challenges that are a result of this scourge. The aim of this study was to explore intervention programs and activities of the government in response to this challenge. This study was based on one of the district municipalities of Limpopo Province called Sekhukhune. In an attempt to find out how effective these intervention programs are, the study included all the five local municipalities of this district. Those who willingly participated were social workers, social auxiliary workers, managers in the NGOs, CBOs and FBOs, carers of orphans in these organizations, and child-headed households. Data collecting was done in the form of questionnaires. Other methods used included discussion forums with designated groups, structured interviews with affected individuals and direct observation by visiting targeted places. The study found that while the government is determined to deliver services for OVC, there are some factors that need to be dealt with so that service delivery could no longer be hampered by anything. The government, therefore need to pay more attention on the issues of those OVC who are turned back when seeking placement under foster care grant due to challenges related to identification booklets of their grandparents, the situation of the caring volunteers in NGOs, individuals who fraudulently help themselves with what is not belonging to them and ensure that there is better communication between officials in the sub-districts and those in higher offices whenever food parcels are bought.