

CHALLENGES FACED BY COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS RENDERING
SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN DROP-IN-CENTRES IN MUSINA
MUNICIPALITY, SOUTH AFRICA.

BY

MBEDZI AZWINNDINI
(STUDENT NUMBER 11541786)

Mini-Dissertation submitted in partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of

Master of Public Health (MPH)

Department of Public Health

University of Venda

SUPERVISOR: Prof H.A. AKINSOLA

CO-SUPERVISOR: Dr A. TUGLI

UNIVEN LIBRARY

Library Item : 20141246



ABSTRACT

At the household level, an orphan crisis leads to changes in the household composition, as well as a rise in the number of child-headed households, child caregivers, and elderly caregivers. At the national level, the crisis raises a number of issues: increased mortality, fall in life expectancy, changing age structures, increased food insecurity, and reduced household saving. Orphanhood exacerbates gender inequalities: and girl orphans are overworked and often sexually exploited by their caregivers.

The aim of the study was to examine the challenges faced by community caregivers rendering services to children in drop-in-centres in Musina Municipality. The study was qualitative in nature, purposive sampling method was used and the sample consisted of representatives from Musina municipality's four drop-in-centres' community caregivers who have been rendering services to children made orphans and vulnerable by HIV/AIDS for more than three years. An interview guide was used as an instrument to guide the researcher when collecting data. A Semi-structured interview was conducted and the researcher did an in-depth interview with each of the eight participants.

The researcher analyzed the data in a qualitative manner and a narrative format was used to capture the data presented. The major findings revealed that the challenges faced by community caregivers in drop-in-centres rendering services to children include lack of donors, insufficient trainings on providing a sound educational curriculum, family pressure for the children to provide for the family, community lifestyle, poor co-operation by organisation management and other stakeholders, labeling of caregivers by the community, lack of co-operation from the families of the children, and insufficient support from the government.

ACRONYMS

- ❖ AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- ❖ DSD: Department of Social Development
- ❖ HIV: Human- Immuno Deficiency Virus
- ❖ OVC: Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- ❖ STATSSA: Statistics South Africa
- ❖ NGO: Non-Governmental Organisations
- ❖ UNAIDS: United Nations on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- ❖ UNICEF: United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
- ❖ WHO: World Health Organisation