

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL (HOWARD COLLEGE)
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A gauge into whether the Child Support Grant (CSG) and the Foster Care Grant (FCG) are serving their purpose to meet the basic needs of vulnerable children: A case study of Umbumbulu.



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Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of:

Master in Development Studies

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DECLARATION - PLAGIARISM

I, **Nondumiso Madlala**, declare that;

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Signed

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Abstract

This study investigated the effectiveness of the Child Support Grant (CSG) and the Foster Care Grant (FCG) in South Africa. It explored whether the CSG and FCG are serving their purpose which is to meet the basic needs of vulnerable children in Umbumbulu and the extent to which the grants alleviate absolute poverty. This study also undertook to ascertain if there is any level of alternate use of the CSG and the FCG and explored how households benefiting from the grants actually use the grant and how the grants improve people's lives.

This research also investigated how the CSG and the FCG impact on employment seeking and whether they encourage people to engage in activities in the informal sector. The main findings of this study are that the CSG and the FCG play an important role in mitigating poverty amongst households of beneficiaries in Umbumbulu area. This research also established that the CSG and the FCG are not enough to meet the basic needs of households. It was also established through this research that the grants encourage employment seeking and engagement in the informal sector.

Abbreviations

CSG – Child Support Grant

FCG – Foster Care Grant

DG – Disability Grant

WVG – War Veterans Grant

GIA – Grant in Aid

SRD – Social Relief of Distress

OPG – Older Persons Grant

SMG – State Maintenance Grant

SASSA – South African Social Security Agency

UN – United Nations

HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus

AIDS – Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome

SLF – Sustainable Livelihood Framework

SALDRU – Southern Africa Labour and Development Research

CSDA – Centre for Social Development in Africa

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

ILO – International Labour Organization

SA – South Africa

IGBE – Innovation in Graduate Business Education

ANC – African National Congress

KZN – KwaZulu – Natal

UKZN – University of KwaZulu – Natal

RAF – Road Accident Fund

UIF – Unemployment Insurance Fund

COID – Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Disease

DSD – Department of Social Development

RDP – Reconstruction and Development Programme

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1.1 Introduction

South Africa is a country that is faced with high unemployment, poverty and inequality. Since South Africa gained its democracy in 1994, the South African government has introduced programmes aimed at poverty alleviation and economic growth. The Government introduced the Child Support Grant (CSG) and Foster Care Grant (FCG) to assist recipients to meet the basic needs of vulnerable children that they are caring for. The CSG was introduced in 1998 after recommendations made by the Lund Committee for Child and Family Support in order to phase out the former State Maintenance Grant (SMG). The CSG had reached 12 440.728 million beneficiaries in 2018 – having grown from 34 000 beneficiaries in 1999 – and constitutes the largest income cash transfer programme in South Africa.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child article 27, every child has the right “to a standard of living adequate for his or her development” and obliges the State “in case of need” to “provide material assistance”. Article 26 guarantees “every child the right to benefit from social security”. Social security programmes provide protection against risks of income loss due to old age, unemployment, disability, and injuries sustained at work.

These CGS and FCG are devised to assist recipients to meet the basic needs of the beneficiaries. According to The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996, Section 27, “Everyone has the right to have access to social security including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants”. This study sought to gain an understanding of whether the CGS and FCG are serving their purpose to meet the basic needs of vulnerable children. This study looked at the impacts of unemployment and how the CSG and FCG are spent in the households. Hall (2009) stated that the right to social assistance ensures that people who are living in poverty are able to meet their basic needs.

1.2 Background of the study

1.2.1 The Child Support Grant (CSG) in South Africa

Van Der Berg *et al* (2008) asserted that the CSG was introduced in South Africa in April 1998 to replace the State Maintenance Grant. The CGS is currently the most important form of assistance for children in poor families. The grant was initially paid to the primary caregivers of children under the age of seven years, but the coverage of the programme was extended gradually from January 2009 and now covers children until their eighteenth birthday. This expansion of the

programme, coupled with rapid growth in the take-up rate in the new millennium, contributed to the sharp increase in the number of beneficiaries to an estimated 8 208 334 in April 2008 asserted Van Der Ber *et al* 2008.

Aguero *et al* (2006) said that in December of 1995, the then newly elected democratic government of South Africa established the Lund Committee in order to evaluate the then existing system of state support and to explore alternative policy options that targeted children and families. In 1998 the CSG was initiated to replace the State Maintenance Grant that existed. The benefit was initially limited to children under seven years (unlike the SMG which covered children up to age 18). In proposing the CSG, the Lund Committee emphasized that the grant must “follow the child”, meaning that the benefit should be independent of the child’s family structure. This approach represented a move from a family-based approach to a child-focused approach. Legally, however, the grant must be paid over to an adult and it is the intention that the person to whom the grant is paid is the “primary care giver” of the child for whom the benefit is intended. When the CSG was introduced, it was intended to benefit the poorest 30% of children and was means-tested. The CSG currently stands at R440 per beneficiary p monthly as at February 2020.

1.2.2 The Foster Care Grant (FCG) in South Africa

The South African Government initiated the FCG as an intervention aimed to address psychological, social and financial difficulties that are faced by orphans. HIV/AIDS tends to exacerbate child poverty and increased social instability. Hearle and Ruwanpura (2009) asserted that studies have shown how the FCG is a means of survival for many households that are caring for orphans. Hearle and Ruwanpura (2009) further mentioned that less is known about the FCG and that a possible explanation for this could be that it only exists in South Africa. The FCG also helps to improve the nutritional status of its beneficiaries.

The Centre for Social Protection and Children in Distress network and Family for Every Child (2016) stated that the CSG and the FCG play a positive role in improving the care and well-being of its beneficiaries. The FCG is larger in term of the monthly pay-out amount (R1080) compared to the CSG (R440). This means that the FCG is able to provide a wider set of the children’s basic needs. The Centre for Social Protection and Children in Distress network and Family for Every Child (2016) also mentioned that the continuous support provided by social workers to the FCG recipients helps to reinforce positive effects of the FCG on the care of children receiving the grant. The Centre for Social Protection and Children in Distress network

and Family for Every Child (2016) acknowledges that available studies suggest the FCG makes a provision for financial support to foster guardians in order for them to afford basic needs (Rochet *et al.* 2015). The Centre for Social Protection and Children in Distress network and Family for Every Child (2016) further acknowledges that the FCG has assisted children to remain in family-based care instead of institutional placements (Dunn 2007 in Csaky 2009).

Lund (1993) recommended that the FCG be offered to the caregivers of orphans, at 500 rand in 1993, the FCG is currently an amount of R1080 in February 2020. The FCG is given to orphans who are in the care of adults who are not their biological relatives. The FCG attempts to mitigate the effects of AIDS in highly affected communities. The Centre for Social Protection (2016) maintained that the purpose of the FCG is to ensure that the orphaned child lives in adequate housing, is fed and given clothing, receives necessary medical care and attends school regularly. These are considered the basic needs of the vulnerable child, needs that are unlikely to be met from the caregiver's pension money or personal resources alone. The FCG was introduced to financially assist people who are taking care of children who are not their own. The Centre for Social Protection (2016) alluded that the receipt of the FCG is connected with regular monitoring and supervision by social workers and placements reviews by the courts every two years as part of the foster care system.

1.3 Study rationale

According to The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) Section 27, “Everyone has the right to have access to social security including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants”, with that said, the State has done a commendable task in ensuring that eligible beneficiaries of the CSG and the FCG have access to these grants. The purpose of this research was to ascertain whether the recipients of the grants are utilising the grants efficiently and effectively. The grants are provisioned for the benefit of the children; this study undertook to gauge whether these grants are utilised for the benefit of the children. Hall (2009) reported that the unemployment rate in South Africa was 23% in 2008. According to Statistics South Africa’s Quarterly Labour Survey (2019), the unemployment rate in South Africa was 30.1%. According to Trading Economics (2020), due to the South African national lockdown which was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 23 March 2020, the unemployment rate in South Africa fell to 23.3% in the second quarter of 2020 from 30.1% in the previous period. The country’s strict lockdown distorted the labour force numbers with fewer people actively seeking employment. The labour force decreased by 5 million to 18.4 million and the number

of employed people declined by 2.8 million to 4.3 million. Hall (2009) further stated that the right to social assistance ensures that people who are living in poverty are able to meet their basic needs. Neves *et al* (2009) also stated that South Africa is regarded as a highly unequal middle – income country in which enduring structural poverty relegates large swathes of the population to the economic periphery. The government is obliged to support children when their parents are unable to do so through social assistance programmes such as the CSG and the FCG. These grants are aimed at ensuring that needs of the children benefitting from these programmes are taken care of. Therefore, a question could be posed as to whether these grants are serving their initial purpose or whether the children’s needs are compromised to ensure the families are sustained. The CSG was a monthly pay-out of R440 in February 2020 which is for children whose parents are unable to meet their basic needs due to poverty and unemployment. The FCG is an amount of R1080 in February 2020 that is available to foster parents who have a child placed in their care by an order of Court. The grant was initially intended as a means of financial support for children placed in foster care because they have been identified to be in need of care and protection. According to the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), the total number of CSG’s paid out as at December 2018 is 12 440.728 and for the FCG its 345.560.

1.4 Aim of the study

The main aim for this study was to gauge an understanding as to whether the CSG and the FCG which are meant for the benefit of children are actually serving their purpose. The study aimed to ascertain whether there is any level of misuse or alternate use of the grants. The study was therefore aimed at exploring how households use the grants and who benefits from these grants.

1.5 Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To examine what households accessing the CSG and the FCG use the grants for
2. To determine whether the CSG and the FCG serve their purpose of improving the lives of vulnerable children
3. To determine whether the CSG and the FCG impact on employment / employment seeking

1.6 Research questions

1. What do you spend the CSG or the FCG on?
2. What expenses of the child/children does the CSG/FCG cover?

3. How many members in your household are employed? Are you currently seeking employment? – does the grant aid or challenge this?

1.7 Anticipated value of the study

This study assesses the effectiveness and efficacy of the CSG and the FCG. It is based on a case study of Umbumbulu Ward 100 in KwaZulu-Natal. The study explored how households in Umbumbulu spend the grant and whether it encourages or impedes employment seeking. The study also gauged whether these social grants alleviate or mitigate poverty in Umbumbulu. A literature review was done to investigate the CSG and the FCG and the issues around them. Due to the high levels of unemployment and the absence of an unemployment grant in South Africa, there are some concerns that the provision of other social assistance weakens people's motivation to seek employment and somehow creates dependency. Delany. A *et al* (2016) noted that there are persistent concerns that social assistance creates dependency amongst its beneficiaries by discouraging them to seek employment. Delany. A *et al* (2016) further alluded that concerned about dependency are also explained in several ways and the most common argument being that social grants are handouts that encourage people to depend on the state. This study is intended to gain an insight into whether the CSG and the FCG create dependency amongst its recipients.

1.8 Structure of the dissertation

This research study is made up of the following chapters:

Chapter 1 - Introduction and Background

Chapter 1 provides an introduction and background to this research study. This chapter provides the objectives of the study, research questions and the study motivation.

Chapter 2 - Literature Review and Theoretical framework

This chapter entails a literature review of currently available literature on social grants locally and internationally. Chapter 2 presents themes that are used to discuss the findings. This chapter reviews the CSG and the FCG as poverty alleviation strategies in South Africa. This chapter further explores the role that these social grants play in the poor households. Chapter 2 also discusses the relevant theories that were utilised in the study. These theories are the social rights theory, the sustainable livelihood framework and the social citizenship theory.

Chapter 3 – Research Methodology

Chapter 4 discusses the research methodologies that were used in the research study. This includes data collection methods, data analysis and the ethical procedures involved in the study.

Chapter 4 – Results

This chapter presents the results of the study and an interpretation and analysis of relevant data.

Chapter 5– Discussion

This chapter provides a discussion of the findings that were identified in chapter 4. This chapter also identifies the gaps that were identified during the undertaking of this study. Recommendations to the bridging of the identified gaps are also discussed in this chapter followed by a conclusion.

Chapter Two: Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

2.1 Introduction

Social grants have been in existence in South Africa since the beginning of the 20th century. Africans however rarely had access to them as most of them were excluded from accessing the social grants. The introduction of the CSG after the transition to democracy was the first major change after apartheid in the field of social policy. It was aimed at reversing the urban bias that had been presented in the education, health and welfare system. According to Groenmeyer (2016), the post-apartheid government aimed to create a society that does not perpetuate racial inequalities, gender and class varieties. Groenmeyer (2016) further stated that before the first democratic election in 1994, majority of blacks in South Africa were excluded from the welfare state.

According to Lund (2008), the phasing out of the State Maintenance Grant (SMG), operating during apartheid, was crucial as this grant was not sustainable and appropriate in terms of affordability and its ability to accommodate changed family forms. South Africa developed the SMG based on British social policy. It was embedded on the model of the existence of a nuclear family with formal marriage between spouses where the fathers were the main breadwinners, and where the primary roles of women were to care for the house and raise the children. South African family structures were changing with increasing single parenthood, teenage mothers, divorce and abandonment; therefore, government had to reconsider the SMG and devise a social grant that would accommodate and include all that are poverty stricken regardless of their family structures.

Booyesen (2012) asserted that South Africa has one of the world's highest HIV/ AIDS rates. The socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS increases the cycle of poverty. This means that with the reportedly high rates of HIV/AIDS, more people are vulnerable to poverty. South Africa has also devised a well-developed social security system that is in line with systems in many developed countries unlike many developing countries (Guthrie, 2002; Seeking, 2002). The system includes the CSG but also the FCG that are aimed at assisting households in caring for children. Social grants in South Africa offer social protection for children but also for older persons as well as people with disabilities. Social grants are regarded as one of South Africa's most important strategies to alleviate poverty. The social grants can be attributed as a poverty alleviation strategy in South Africa, however there are also critiques of the effectiveness and efficiency of the social grants which will be discussed in this chapter.

Lund (2004) stated that social grants in post-apartheid South Africa have been linked with success in reducing the depth of poverty. Lund (2004) further stated that the decline in the depth of poverty has been most significant among the poorest of the poor. Van Der Berg (2011) mentioned that despite this decline, poverty and inequality remain the country's greatest challenge with poverty continuing to be associated with race, gender, education, and spatial dimensions.

The purpose of this chapter is to review existing literature on the CSG and the FCG and related issues such as poverty, unemployment, inequality and the effectiveness and efficiency of these social grants. This will be done with reference to the international context and social assistance programmes in the developing world.

2.2 Social Assistance Programmes in developing countries

A number of social assistance programmes have been implemented in the developing world with varying degrees of success. Barrientos *et al* (2013) describes social assistance as programmes and policies that states implement with the aim to address poverty and vulnerability. In the last two decades, developing countries have introduced and implemented forms of social assistance that contribute to the reduction of global poverty. Countries developed different programmes which are all aimed at poverty reduction. Some of these programmes are discussed below:

2.2.1. Argentina: Universal Family Allowance Per Child for Social Protection

According to Barrientos (2010) the Universal Family Allowance Per Child for Social Protection implemented in Argentina is a monthly family allowance for parents who are unemployed or work in the informal economy. This grant is an amount of USD\$48 (ARS180) and is given to one parent or child carer monthly, subject to a maximum of five children. The allowance is paid out to children up to the age of four years, children must complete all compulsory health examinations and vaccination schemes; from the age of five and up to the age of 18 children must attend school. This social protection scheme is similar to the child support grant in South Africa in terms of its requirements and means tests for qualification.

2.2.2. Mexico: The Oportunidades

According to Barrientos (2010) The *Oportunidades* which was formerly known as the *Progresa* implemented in Mexico provides income transfers to poor households on the condition that they

send their children to school and attend regular health check-ups. The programme began in rural areas, but it was extended to urban areas in 2003.

Barrientos (2010) made mention that a social grant is a monthly benefit of US\$17.80 for food consumption; US\$15 as a social pension to senior citizens; US\$3.31 for energy consumption, and US\$10.90 for educational expenses. Registration in the program is for three years, renewable if the family still qualifies as extremely poor with children of school age. School enrolment and a minimum attendance rate of 85% per month for children aged 8-18 is one of the conditions.

Barrientos (2010) reported that the *Oportunidades* has had positive results, a reported 10% reduction in primary-school desertion and 24% increase in secondary-school registration. School dropout rates decreased by 24 % with a corresponding rise in completion rates for secondary school in rural areas of 23%; a 42% increase in the probability of entering secondary school for boys and 33% for girls. Regarding health, a 35% increase in attendance to preventive healthcare check-ups in rural areas (20% in urban areas); 11% reduction in maternal mortality, and 2% decrease in child mortality; 20% reduction in the incidence of sick days for beneficiaries aged 0-5, and 11% for those aged 16 to 49. Regarding nutrition, a 50% decrease in the incidence of low-size-for-age in children over a 10-year period; a reduction in anaemia amongst children, up to 12.4 %, depending on the age group. There was a 22% increase in total family consumption for rural areas and 16% in urban areas.

South Africa can benchmark from Latin American programmes such as *Oportunidades* as the main objective of this grants is to improve schooling, health and nutrition for poor households in Mexico, particularly focusing on children and their mothers asserted Barrientos (2010). South Africa can learn from the *Oportunidades* as Holmes and Jones (2013) mentioned that beneficiaries of this grant in Mexico are offered employment training and income-generating opportunities whilst also being provided with subsidised crèche scheme. The grant further seeks to ensure that households have enough resources for survival so that children can complete basic education. The grant encourages good health in a sense that it requires regular visits to the health centre for children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating mothers. Mothers are also required to attend health and nutrition training. As the child support and the foster care grant in South Africa, the *Oportunidades* also encourages schooling.

2.2.3 China: Minimum Living Standard Scheme (Dibao)

Social assistance in China takes the form of the Minimum Living Standard Scheme which is known as the Minimum Living Standard Scheme (*Dibao*). According to Sicular *et al* (2014), the *Dibao* is regarded as one of the largest social assistance programmes in the world. The *Dibao* was implemented in some urban areas by the state council of China in 1990. Following its implementation in some urban areas, The *Dibao* was then deemed as a positive programme for poverty alleviation and was then extended to the rural areas in the year 2007 as stated by Sicular *et al* (2014). The *Dibao* was introduced to provide substantial income benefits to its beneficiaries who were living below poverty line. Kakwani *et al* (2018) stated that the *Dibao* program was implemented in order to reduce urban poverty in the 1990s. It was further implemented in the rural areas in the 2000s in order to alleviate poverty and to improve the livelihoods of the poorest people in the rural areas. Kakwani *et al* (2018) further alluded that in 2013 the *Dibao* benefited 12.28 million households covering 42.72 million individual beneficiaries.

Unlike the social assistance programmes in South Africa which are standardized regardless of rural and urban area status, the implementation of the *Dibao* has separate programmes for urban and for rural areas. These programmes are run by local authorities. Regions have different qualifying criteria and means of distribution. Kakwani *et al* (2018) further stated that the qualifying criterion for the *Dibao* is the household registration (*Hokou*) and the household income must be lower than the threshold level in the local area. The amount of the *Dibao* is usually the difference between the income threshold level and the household income. The income threshold in the urban areas is higher than the threshold in the rural areas. Regions with better economic activity have a higher income threshold than those with poor economic conditions.

The International Labour Organisation (2020) explained taking into consideration the COVID19 outbreak, China further protected the poor and vulnerable groups in the country. This was done through new implementation guidelines which reaffirmed social assistance programmes (including *Dibao*) coverage of low-income population group, considering the impact of the COVID19 pandemic. These measures included a guarantee of the coverage of social assistance and its adequacy, timely benefit adjustments, coverage of population that has newly fallen in poverty or that has returned to poverty due to the pandemic. According to the International Labour Organisation (2020), China further provided assistance to quarantined

people and families that were impacted and infected with the virus, assistance was also provided for workers.

2.2.4 India: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

Trading Economics (2020) stated that 65.53% of Indians live in the rural areas. They further stated that majority of the 65.53% earned their living through agriculture. Deinger and Yanyan (2013) mentioned that the MGNREGS was firstly paid out in 2006 following the passing of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in 2005. The MGNREGS was firstly implemented in the poorest districts in the country, then the roll out followed in the more affluent districts. The phasing out of the programme was done in three phases that started in February 2006 and covered 200 poorest districts, the second phase was done in September 2007 and the third phase was rolled out in 2008. Deinger and Yanyan (2013) further denoted that the local governments and village assemblies have an important role in the implementation, monitoring and evaluating of the program.

According to Boon-Ong & De (2016), the MGNREGS is an employment grant in India which is set out for job seekers above the age of 18. This program aims to reduce poverty through the provision of extra work to the unemployed people that are seeking employment and are willing to work. The MGNREGS entitles rural households a minimum of 100 days of paid employment per annum at a minimum wage. This scheme is intended to give poor households some income security. The MGNREGS is a rights-based approach to poverty reduction. Cornwall and Nyamu Masembi (2004) described the rights-based approach as an important approach towards development as this approach is based on the empowerment of people to realise their rights and the State to provide these rights.

Boon-Ong & De (2016) noted some issues in the programme such as limited public awareness, low administrative and delivery capacities and low quality control of assets created and ineffective mentoring and auditing mechanisms.

2.3 The South African Context: The CSG and the FCG

A number of studies have reflected high uptake of the social grant in South Africa as well as its impact on alleviating poverty. The Centre for Social Protection (2016) conducted research consisting of 112 adults and 102 children from uMgungundlovu district and uThukela district

in KwaZulu- Natal province. The sample group comprised of the CSG and the CG programme staff from the private and the public sector, social workers and the CSG and the FCG recipients. The study investigated the impact of the CSG and the FCG on child care in South Africa. The study that was conducted by The Centre for Social Protection (2016) also looked at the effects of the CSG and the FCG on the quality of care that the children receive and it also looked at who provides the care to children. The study further explored implementation issues regarding both grants and it recommended options for more effective and efficient support. The research conducted by The Centre for Social Protection (2016) found that the CSG and the FCG play a positive role in improving childcare and well-being, family resources are generally pooled across children and other vulnerable household members, there are widespread misconceptions among grant recipients, programme staff, social workers about the purpose of the grants and what they are meant to be spent on, the positivity of providing cash transfers to kinship and foster care, the application processes and procedures of the grants lack transparency and offer limited client-oriented service provision, the division of roles and responsibilities between social service professionals lacks clarity, the application for the FCG is subject to long delays and the FCG suffers from capacity issues that undermine the impact on childcare and well-being.

Case *et al* (2003) compiled a paper based on data that was collected at Umkhanyakude District in KwaZulu – Natal. Umkhanyakude is a poor rural area with high rates of migration. The research found that 36 percent of all children under the age of 7 years have had some contact with the CSG system. The research further found that between 80 and 90 percent of children ages 1 to 6 years had been in contact with the CSG in 2002. Case *et al* (2003) further stated that in the fifth year of its existence, the CSG was fully reaching a third of age-eligible children in Umkhanyakude, half of which received a grant within 3 months, this showed a real commitment to its implementation. The study also found that children for whom the grant is being obtained have less well-educated parents and parents who are less likely to be employed. The children live in households that own fewer assets. This study showed the success of the CSG in the poor rural area of Umkhanyakude District. This grant was fast reaching eligible recipients, this meant that people were benefitting, and their standard of living was somehow improving. The findings of this study also show the commitment of government to implement the CSG after its introduction.

As adults in the households fall ill, they are then forced to quit working and nurture their health, the household income then decreases. The need to spend more on health care increases, children

are then taken out of school to care for the sick adult at home or work to contribute to the household income (Booyesen, 2004). This socio-economic reality has resulted in an uptake of the social grant as reflected in a study conducted in Umkhanyakude District asserted Booyesen (2004). The number of FCG beneficiaries increased at an average annual rate of 26% over a period of 5 years, increasing from 43 thousand to 138 thousand between the years 1998 and 2003. Booyesen (2004) further enlightened that during 1998 and 2003, the CSG number of beneficiaries on average grew at 138 per annum, rising from 34 000 in 1998 to 2.6 million by April 2003. Guthrie (2002), Seeking (2002), Van Der Berg and Bredenkamp (2002) stated that apart from the social grants generally alleviating poverty, they are also likely to play an important role in mitigating the socio- economic impacts of HIV/AIDS such as the increase in morbidity and mortality, the orphan crisis and the resulting impacts on household composition and formation. Booyesen (2004) found that social grants play an important role in mitigating the socioeconomic impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. HIV/AIDS has had various negative impacts on people's socio- economic statuses such as increased number of orphans in a household.

The FCG is a social grant that also benefits orphaned children, it is paid out to care givers to aid in meeting the basic needs of the child concerned. McEwan and Woolard (2015) mentioned that the FCG remains the oldest child grant in South Africa as it was initiated before the 1990s. The Centre for Social Protection (2016) asserted that the FCG was established as part of the child protection system in order to financially support caregivers with the ability to provide foster care for children who have been removed from their families and those who cannot be care for by their parents. FCG placements are formalised through the court with the state acting as the child's legal guardian.

Patel (2012) compiled an article aimed at providing insight into selected aspects of poverty and the gendered nature of poverty in a poor urban community in South Africa. The article also demonstrated how the poor people survive. It also illustrated the role and the contribution of social grants in reducing poverty and vulnerability in poor households. The article found that 83% of households in Doornkop which is situated in Soweto accessed the CSG. The research found that the CSG was an important contribution to household income among the poor. As small as it is, the CSG serves to mitigate the vulnerability of poor households with children to food insecurity. Contrary to the myth that CSG beneficiaries are passive recipients of public assistance, the research demonstrates the opposite as many CSG recipients are actively engaging in ways to generate income in order to support their families.

Neves *et al* (2009) studied the use and effectiveness of social grants in South Africa, namely the CSG, FCG, WVG (War Veterans Grant), OPG (Older Persons Grant), CDG (Care Dependency Grant, DG (Disability Grant), GIA (Grant in Aid) and the SRD (Social Relief of Distress). They were interested in how the South African social grant recipients were using and spending the grants as well as whether these grants are effective. They highlighted several positive outcomes of the social grants; firstly, social grants elevate welfare, buying power and access to social services. Secondly, social grants generate potential economic benefits. Thirdly, social grants help to empower the recipients in a social context. The study conducted by Neves *et al* (2009) confirms that social grants in South Africa support consumption and improves the welfare of recipients and their households. Social grants also empower the marginalised household members such as the disabled and the elderly.

According to Noble and Ntshongwana (2008) using a specially designed module in the HSRC's (2006) South African social attitudes found that there is a positive attitude among both the unemployed and existing social grant recipients towards work; general support for an extension to the social security system to provide support for the unemployed. Noble and Ntshongwana (2008) further asserted that there is no evidence that social grants generate a culture of dependency in South Africa. Noble and Ntshongwana (2008) highlighted that the idea that social grants promote dependency emerged as a strain of neo-liberal thoughts in the United States in the 1980s. Noble and Ntshongwana (2008) further alluded that the starting point for this neo-liberal thought is that poor people are responsible for their own poverty due to laziness and reliance of the state for support as opposed to working. This study also intended to ascertain whether social grants create or promote dependency. The study also explored the attitude of social grants recipients towards work. Groenmeyer (2016) stated that social grants are faced with opposition as scholars differ on the subject of social grants and dependency. Patel (2011) disregarded social grants as a reason for the state not to intervene in the labour market. Bernstein (2013) considers social grants as a form of hand-outs thus promoting dependency. Contrary to Bernstein's (2013) belief that social grants promoted dependency, Grootes (2014) of the University of Stellenbosch conducted a study which suggested that households spend the social grants on food and does not discourage people from seeking employment.

2.4 Developmental Social Welfare Policy and Practice in South Africa

Patel (2015) described the developmental social welfare policy as an approach that seeks to understand why post-colonial societies were rejected as inappropriate in addressing the

developmental needs of the society. The developmental social welfare policy attempted to transcend these ideas by harmonising social and economic development and investing in human capabilities (Midgley 1995; Midgley and Sherraden 2000; Midgley and Tang 2014). Patel (2015) firstly stated that social development in South African context, is conceived as a pro-poor strategy that promotes participation of the groups that were previously socially excluded in development activities in order to achieve social and economic justice, human rights, social solidarity and active citizenship. Secondly, Patel (2008) noted that a collaborative partnership approach is envisaged between the state, civil society as well as the private sector, with government in the frontline. Thirdly, the developmental social welfare policy recognizes high-impact intervention strategies, community-based and development approaches to service delivery. According to Patel (2015), the social developmental approach to social welfare exists in order to modernise the social welfare system to be more just, equitable, participatory and appropriate for all. The White Paper for Social Welfare (1997) proposed a better balance between remedial, protective, preventative and developmental strategies, this included the identification of a stronger link between social assistance and developmental welfare services in South Africa. Fourthly, “the developmental social welfare policy also called for a better balance between generic services and those that were structured around the needs of specialised client groups such as children, families, older persons and people with disabilities, including substance abuse and restorative justice. A more holistic approach was envisaged which would overcome the fragmentation in service delivery”. (Patel, 2015:74)

Whilst social development as an approach to social welfare is receiving a lot of global attention, the implications of the social development approach have not been fully explored. In the South African context this has been a major limitation. Patel (2005) stated that the social development practice framework sets out a two-part model. Part one of the model focuses on organising themes and general character of social development. Part two of the model outlines the knowledge, skills and values component of an integrated practice framework promoting multi-modal intervention strategies. This framework also involves the implementation of research and the development and implementation of social policies that contribute to social justice and human development. It is also rooted in the values of social justice, equality, non-discrimination and reconciliation as envisaged by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

This study explored whether the FCG and the CSG improve social development of vulnerable groups. The developmental social welfare policy looks at how social welfare is improving the well-being of people in the society through improved health, employment and education as

asserted by Patel (2015). This study further looked at how the social welfare system in South Africa improves people's lives towards self – sufficiency. The study also looked at how the social welfare system improve people's access to health, education and employment opportunities.

2.5 The importance of Social Assistance in South Africa

Samson (2016) discussed that social security in South Africa has two main objectives. The first objective is the immediate reduction of poverty amongst vulnerable groups that are unable to participate in the labour market, namely, the elderly, children and persons with disabilities. The second objective as discussed by Samson (2016) is to increase investment in education, nutrition and health in order to increase economic growth and development. These two main objectives are outlined in the Government White Paper for Social Development (1997) which states that “A social security system is essential for healthy economic development, particularly in a rapid changing economy, and will contribute actively to the development process. it is important for the immediate alleviation of poverty and is a mechanism for active redistribution”.

Social assistance is a safety net for vulnerable groups that cannot provide for themselves and their dependents. Lund (1994) in her paper stated that social security in South Africa is one part of the broader system of welfare provision which is based on what Mishra (1981) would call a residual system, and Korpi (1983) would call a marginal system which means that the state will provide services and benefits if the individual, family and community are not able to do so.

According to the South African Government Gazette (2004) and the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), everyone has the right to have access to social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance, and obliges the state to take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights; and since the effective provision of social assistance requires uniform norms and standards, standardised delivery mechanisms and a national policy for the efficient, economic and effective use of the limited resources available for social assistance and for the promotion of equal access to government services.

2.6 Unemployment in South Africa

South Africa is faced with high unemployment and poverty, people have no means of income and often solely rely on social assistance for survival. Kingdom and Knight (2003) asserted that unemployment is of serious concern in South Africa because of its effects on economic welfare, production, erosion of human capital, social exclusion, crime, and social instability. Decades later, unemployment remains a serious concern in South Africa. According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (2019) that was released by Statistics South Africa in 2019, the official unemployment rate increased by 1.4% points in the second quarter to 29.0% in comparison to the first quarter of 2019. There was an increase of 455 000 to 6.7 million in the number of unemployed people in the second quarter of 2019 in comparison to the first quarter, which resulted in a total increase of 476 000 in the labour force. According to Statistics South Africa (2020), the official unemployment rate decreased by 6,8 percentage points to 23,3% in quarter 2 in 2020 compared to quarter 1 in 2020.

Cloete (2013) mentioned that the South African economy has grown following the adoption of neo-liberal globalism post-apartheid and free trade which exposed South Africa to the importation of cheap products. This explains that the importing of cheap products from other countries meant that people and companies have an option of buying cheaply from other countries as opposed to buying local products thus increasing unemployment in the country. with the increase in unemployment, people become the responsibility of the state as they cannot afford to support and care for themselves and their dependents. This study explored the level of unemployment in the country and its impact on household. This study further looked at the role that the CSG and the FCG in the absence of employment.

Although unemployment in South Africa is currently extremely high, a number of developing countries also have comparable rates. McCord (2002) asserted that the South African economy is facing labour market failure, with labour supply increasingly outstripping the demand. The severe levels of unemployment in South Africa plays a role in exacerbating poverty and inequality and uneven incidence of unemployment among racial groups. McCord (2002) further mentioned that unemployment impacts on poverty and inequality. This means that unemployment leads to poverty as unemployed people have no income to take care of themselves and their dependents. Unemployment also leads to inequality in that the poor and poverty-stricken people become unequal to their employed counterparts in society.

According to Louw and Shaw (1997) unemployment has been found to have negative social implications at both household and individual level. These implications lead to an increase in social and domestic conflict, criminal activity and political dissatisfaction and the undermining of social stability. ILO (2001) responded that South Africa is facing an extreme unemployment situation in comparison to unemployment at a global level. The developed country's average was 6.2% in 2000, while the Latin American and Caribbean average was 8.9% in 2000. According to the ILO: Labour Overview (2018), The rate of unemployment in Latin America and the Caribbean experienced a slight fall to 7.8 per cent in 2018, in contrast to 8.1 per cent in 2017. Brazil is frequently cited as an economic comparator to South Africa as it has similar levels in GDP output and inequality, however differs significantly from South Africa in the aspect of unemployment as Brazil had an unemployment rate of 9% in 1999 asserted ILO (2001). Fallon and De Silva (1994) explained that the cause of the increasing unemployment in South Africa as a combination of changes in the structure of the South African economy, domestic politics and political shifts and the effects of global economic integration.

Trading Economics (2019) published that the unemployment rate in South Africa has risen to 27.6 percent in the first quarter of 2019 from 27.1 percent in the previous period. It is the highest jobless rate since quarter 3 in the year 2017, as the number of unemployed went up by 62 thousand to 6.20 million and employment fell by 237 thousand to 16.29 million. These figures indicate that South Africa is faced with high- unemployment and this means more people are stricken by poverty and are reliant on social assistance from the state.

BusinessTech (dibao) reported that unemployment rates have recently rose in South Africa as people lost their jobs as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. BusinessTech (2020) further reported an approximate of 3 million total job losses during the national lockdown due to Covid19.

2.7. Poverty in South Africa

Statistics South Africa (2020) gave utterance that the national lockdown in response to the Covid19 pandemic has worsened poverty rates in South Africa. The national lockdown halted unemployment and thus leading to increased poverty. Statistics SA (2000) reported that 24 million South Africans out of a then population total of 45 million lived in poverty with income levels less than half the poverty line. In 2014, South Africa's poverty rate had increased to **57.10%** as stated by Macrotrends (1993-2020). Statistics South Africa (2020) further stated that poverty is defined using three national poverty lines.

According to Statistics South Africa (2020), the national poverty lines were constructed using the cost-of-basic-needs approach which links welfare to the consumption of goods and services. The national poverty lines contain food and non-food components of household consumption expenditure. The first national poverty line being food poverty which is currently at 585 in the 2020 line values. Secondly, the lower-bound poverty line which is currently at 840 in the 2020 line values and lastly, in upper-bound poverty line which is currently at 1268 in the 2020 line values. Samson *et al* (2002) stated that these poverty levels are closely linked to unemployment. Natrass and Seekings (2015) gave utterance that income poverty in South Africa is linked to race and is also the consequence of a pre-1994 racial discrimination system that defined apartheid.

According to Statistics South Africa (2018) South Africa is an upper-middle-class-income country in terms of its Per Capita, however most households in South Africa experience outright poverty and vulnerability to being poor. May (2001) asserted that about 18 million people live in the poorest 40% of households and are classified as poor, and 10 million people live in the rural areas. The poverty rate in South Africa for rural area is 71%. Meth (2010) conveyed that the analysis conducted by the 1999 Household Survey and the 2000 Labour Force Survey which suggested that the number of people in the bottom two expenditure classes (R0-399 and R400 – R799 per household per month) increased by about 4.2 million over the period.

2.8. Inequality in South Africa

According to May (2001) the distribution of income and wealth in South Africa is among the most unequal in the world. Many households still have inadequate access to clean water, energy, education and efficient health care. May (2001) also mentioned that South Africa is measured at 0.5% of the degree of inequality, the Gini Coefficient, is one of the highest in the world. Currently, the level of inequality in South Africa has deepened. According to the World Inequality Database (2019), the top 1% of South African earners take home almost 20% of all income, while the top 10% of South African earners take home 65%. The remaining 90% get only 35% of total income inequality amongst African household's accounts for between 29% and 49% of overall inequality, depending on the type of measure selected.

According to the World Bank Annual Report (2018) South Africa remains a dual economy with one of the highest inequality rates in the world, with a consumption expenditure Gini coefficient of 0.63 in 2015. Inequality has been persistent in South Africa with an increase from 0.61 in 1996. The World Bank Annual Report (2018) further stated inequality in wealth is even higher

as the richest 10 percent of the population held around 71% of net wealth in 2015, while the bottom 60 percent held 7% of the net wealth. Furthermore, intergenerational mobility is low meaning inequalities are passed down from generation to generation with little change in inequality over time. Not only does South Africa has a high level of inequality and poverty, it also has a high-level inclusiveness of consumption growth.

Inequality in South Africa can be traced back to the apartheid era. Hoogeveen and Ozler (2004) asserted that apartheid in South Africa officially ended with the democratic elections held in 1994. Apartheid left a population with vast inequalities across the different racial groups in the country. In 1995, at least 58% of all South Africans are reported by Hoogeveen and Ozler (2004) to have been in poverty.

2.9 Critiques of social grants

One can question the validity of the social assistance system in South Africa by asking whether it perpetuates dependency on its recipients, or if it is accomplishing its primary objectives which are to close the poverty gap and provide opportunities that individuals would otherwise be without.

According to Potts (2011), there has been some speculation that the CSG discourages employment-seeking among the recipients. In her research, Potts (2011) asked respondents for their views about whether the CSG is too high and whether it discourages people from looking for work. There was little support for this proposition as only 13% of the “poor”, 18% of the “just getting by” and 17% of the “non-poor” either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposition. On the other hand, 71% of all groups either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposition. The responses of those where CSG was received in the household were not significantly different from households where no CSG was being received. She also asked those unemployed whether they consider themselves better off claiming grants than working. The respondents were adamant in their rejection of the assertion that it is not worth working (over two-thirds disagreed with the proposition). When adding in the unemployed this figure rises to three-quarters.

Neves *et al* (2009) found that there are negative effects around social grants, including opportunities for corruption, distorting markets and creating a range of perverse incentives. Reddy and Sokomani (2008) also reported an estimated loss of about R1.5 billion a year through corruption and maladministration in the delivery of social grants in South Africa.

According to Potts (2011) The South African government is obligated by the Constitution to ensure social security for all citizens, there is however a concern that social assistance has stretched to a point of unsustainability. The writer further raises that there is a concern that the expansion of social assistance has resulted in the beneficiaries being dependent on cash transfers from the state. The resolution from the 52nd National Conference of the ANC suggested that beyond poverty alleviation, intervention strategies must seek to develop exit programmes that capacitate households and communities to empower themselves. Many households in South Africa that are poverty stricken are dependent on the state (Surrender 2010). The social welfare system grant recipients in South Africa is increasing rapidly from 2, 889, 443 in April 1997 to 17, 731, 402 in December 2018 asserts Trading Economics (2019). Potts (2011) further asserted that South Africa has the highest expenditure on social assistance in the world. A reported 17, 731, 402 of the South African population is in receipt of the state social assistance from the state, it is therefore substantial to monitor and evaluate whether the social assistance system in South Africa is achieving its objective which is to close the poverty gap that exists in South Africa. Potts (2011) argued in her study that the CSG is serving its purpose and removing societal barriers for children.

Surrender *et al* (2010) mentioned discourses around social grants essentially take two forms the first argues that welfare provides benefits for the poor. This discourse suggests the viability of social welfare systems to lift people out of poverty. The second discourse argues that welfare creates dependency on the state. This discourse is explained by Murray (1984) who argued that among the population, there are those significant groups whose socio-economic status are driven by their behavioural shortcomings, particularly that they have little to no desire to seek employment. He further states that paid work is not valued, and that people are content with living off the support from the state. Murray (1984) made mention that the welfare system disempowers people from seeking employment. He further makes a statement that the people benefitting from the welfare system are underserving and are recipients by choice and not by necessity.

Panda (2012) conducted a survey and found that 53% of younger respondents ages 15 to 17 years were more likely to think that teens who had children wanted the child social grant and 43% of 18 to 34-year olds also felt that the child support grant perpetuates teenage pregnancy. Makiwana (2010) conducted research on the relationship between teenage fertility and social grants, they concluded that there is no association between teenage fertility and receiving the CSG. Rosenberg *et al* (2015) also conducted a study on this association and the evidence

supported the findings by Makiwana (2010). This evidence weakens the validity of CSG receipt as a motivator for young women becoming pregnant in order to be eligible for the grant.

This research study explored whether CSG and FCG recipients are recipients by choice or if they have other genuine options taking into consideration the high unemployment, poverty and inequalities that exist in South Africa.

2.10 Theoretical framework

2.10.1. The Social Citizenship Theory

Turner (1993) defines citizenship as a set of practices that define a person as a competent member of society, and which shapes the flow of resources to persons and social groups. He further mentions that citizenship is concerned with social rights and obligations. Marshall (2006) explained social citizenship theory as a theory that asserts that all persons in society should be able to live in a civilized manner. Gough (1998) stated that the extent of how far the basic human needs are met is central to any coherent idea of social policy and social progress.

According to Walzer (1995) social citizenship theory makes emphasis of distributive justice. This means that resources must be distributed in a justified manner. Drake (2001) stated that in order for individuals to enjoy social rights, they need to have their right to membership recognised by others in the community. Drake (2001) further makes mention that participation within society is also required for full citizenship to exist. Dwyer (2003) conveyed that if individuals or certain groups lack adequate rights to social welfare, and if these individuals or certain groups are unable to participate in society meaningfully, then the idea of citizenship as a shared common status begins to unravel. Marshall (2006) defined the responsibility that the state has to its citizens with regards to social welfare.

This study considered whether people's rights to social welfare are adequately met and whether social rights are distributed and shared in a justified manner.

2.10.2. The Sustainable Livelihood Approach

According to Scoones (2015), Sustainable Livelihood is an analytical framework to poverty eradication. Krantz (2001) stated that the Sustainable Livelihood Approach recognises that more attention must be given to factors and processes that enhance poor people's ability to make a living in an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable manner. Krantz (2001) further states that the framework advocates for the achievement of sustainable livelihoods as a broad

goal for poverty eradication. Chambers & Conway (1992) defined a sustainable livelihood as a livelihood that has the ability to cope and recover from stressors and shocks, a livelihood that can maintain and enhance its capabilities and assets, and that can also provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for future generations, while not undermining or exploiting the natural resources.

Krantz (2001) asserted that the sustainable livelihood approach realises that while economic growth is essential for the reduction of poverty, there is no automatic relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction as it all depends on the capabilities of the poor people to expand economic opportunities. Krantz (2001) mentioned that there is also a realisation that poverty includes other dimensions such as bad health, illiteracy and lack of social services. Krantz (2001) further stated that the sustainable livelihood approach also recognises that the poor people must be involved in the designing of policies and projects that are aimed towards bettering their lives as the poor people know their situations and needs better.

Ashley (2000) stated that the sustainable livelihood approach produces a holistic view of what resources are important to the poor, and that the approach also provides an understanding of the underlying causes of poverty by focusing on factors that directly or indirectly determine or constrain people's access to resources. This study looked at how the CSG and the FCG promote and contribute to sustainable livelihoods in households. The study looked at how these social grants encourage people to engage in sustainable and self-sufficient means of survival.

2.10.3. The Social Rights Theory

Fabre (2000) reported that many philosophers defined social rights as adequate income, adequate housing, adequate education and adequate health care. Fabre (2000) defined adequate as the amount of resources that are minimally required by everyone in order for people to live a decent life. Barak-Erez and Gross (2018) asserted that the social rights theory makes cognisance of the right to social assistance. According to Barak-Erez and Gross (2018) this theory further emphasizes that people must have access to social assistance to meet their basic needs if they are unable to support themselves as well as their dependents. Brems (2007) indicated that the protection of civil rights such as the right to life, allows the protection of social rights such as the right to efficient health care.

Social rights are concerned with citizenship. Marshall (2006) noted that citizenship can be divided into three parts or elements which are civil, political and social. The civil aspect composes of rights that are necessary for individual freedom of persons such as freedom of

speech and the right to own property. Marshall (2006) also described the political right which is the right to participate in exercising political powers. He also described social rights as ranging from the right to a modicum of economic welfare and security to the right to live the life of a civilized human being as according to societal standards.

The social rights theory further states that people have a right to basic needs and that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that these needs are adequately met for everyone. The 1996 South African Constitution recognises a right of access to social assistance for people who are unable to support themselves and their dependents. Social Assistance is said by Liebenberg (2001) to be one of the strategies in the eradication of poverty in South Africa.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter is intended to give a rationale for the choice of research methods used in this study. An in-depth description of the research methods that were used in the undertaking of this study is provided. Research is a systematic method to answer questions that may lead to further questions. In this study, the researcher wanted to establish whether the Child Support Grant (CSG) and Foster Care Grant (FCG) are serving their purpose to meet the basic needs of vulnerable children using a case study of Umbumbulu.

This study was a qualitative research study conducted in the form of interviews. Mouton and Prozesky (2003) described qualitative research as a generic research approach in social research whereby researchers study human action from the perspective of the social actors themselves. Mouton and Prozesky (2003) further asserted that the primary goal of qualitative studies is describing and understanding rather than explaining human behaviour. Qualitative research refers to the meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and descriptions of things (Lune and Berg, 2017:12).

3.2 Study setting

This research study was conducted in Umbumbulu Ward 100. Umbumbulu is a rural area which is situated 40 kilometres from Durban. Umbumbulu is under Ethekewini Municipality in the south vicinity of Ethekewini bordered by Madundube on the north-east of Durban and the farming community of Midd-Illovo on the South. Ethekewini Municipality (2011) reported that the area had a population of 2684 (98.7% were black Africans and 93.4% being Zulus). The area is still presently subjected to the rule of Chiefs and Indunas under the Sobonakhona Tribal Authority. The main source of income for people of Umbumbulu is through nature as the area is mainly agrarian and traditional homesteads with their associated cultivations, fallow field and grazing lands remain dispersed over the rolling hills. Caister (2012) stated in his research that subsistence farming is a big part of the lives of people of Umbumbulu as a means of survival due to high unemployment. Umbumbulu is under-serviced, with limited development and lacks economic resources asserted Caister (2012). Caister (2012) further mentioned that Umbumbulu is marred by poverty, unemployment, increasing unfavourable weather conditions and separation from broader society. For decades Umbumbulu has been the site of sporadic political and faction-based violence. According to Mathis (2013), large – scale political violence throughout the province of KwaZulu- Natal (KZN) escalated during

the second half of the 1980s. Despite this, Umbumbulu experienced an earlier escalation of violence that was referred to as a 'faction fight' or as the 'eMbo-Makhanya war', the causes of this faction fight were primarily local power struggles. Many of the homes in Umbumbulu have been abandoned due to urbanization. Brand South Africa (2016) reported that more than half of South Africa's population is urbanised as up to 64% of South Africans live in the country's urban centres. The community of Umbumbulu has a Department of Social Development service office which assists the community with applications and processing of foster care grants. The community also has South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) offices where the application and processing of the child support grant is done.

3.3 Social Grants in Umbumbulu

Through the in-depth interviews, it was ascertained that social grants specifically the CSG and FCG play a crucial role in the area. The community is stricken by unemployment and poverty. Some households in the area are largely and others solely dependent on the CSG and FCG for survival. Some of the individuals that partook in the research study stated that they have no other means of income and do not know how they would support their families without the grants.

3.4 Study population

In- depth interviewing was used as a data collection method from the participants in order to gain an understanding of people's experiences and feelings. The in-depth interviews were initially planned to be done at Umbumbulu Community Library. A total number of 5 interviews were conducted at Umbumbulu Community Library, the balance of 11 interviews were conducted at the participant's homes in Umbumbulu area. The reason is that participants stated that they were unable to come to the Library due to different reasons ranging from taking care of children at home, some stated that they are more comfortable with the interviews being conducted in their homes rather than in the Library.

The researcher constructed an interviewing schedule with a set of questions that were asked to all the research participants during the interviewing process.

A total number of 16 key informants participated in the research study. Eight of the total number of participants are recipients of the Child Support Grant and the other eight are in receipt of the Foster Care Grant. The researcher used snowball sampling and purposive sampling as a method of selecting the research participants. The participants all reside in Umbumbulu area Ward 100.

All of the participants were women and ranged from 19 to 62 in age and only two were employed as depicted in the Table below.

3.4.1 Table: Study Participants

	Pseudonym	Age	Gender	Employment Status	Grant
1	Nosipho	29	Female	Employed	CSG
2	Nomfundo	26	Female	Unemployed	FCG
3	Nothando	30	Female	Unemployed	CSG
4	Nozi	58	Female	Unemployed	CSG
5	Nokubonga	22	Female	Unemployed	FCG
6	Nombuso	31	Female	Unemployed	FCG
7	Nozipho	19	Female	Employed	CSG
8	Nonceba	33	Female	Unemployed	CSG
9	Sinothando	46	Female	Unemployed	FCG
10	Noli	23	Female	Unemployed	CSG
11	Nontobeko	31	Female	Unemployed	CSG
12	Busi	51	Female	Unemployed	FCG
13	Amanda	48	Female	Unemployed	FCG
14	Azanda	55	Female	Unemployed	FCG
15	Pamela	62	Female	Unemployed	FCG
16	Lunwabo	20	Female	Unemployed	CSG

3.5 Research design

Maxwell (2013) envisaged that in qualitative research, research design should be a reflexive process operating through every stage of the research project. Mouton and Prozesky (2003) stated that there are two major aspects of research design. The first aspect as defined by Mouton and Prozesky (2003) is that one must specify as clearly as possible what one wants to find out. Secondly, that one must determine the best way to go about doing it.

Rubin and Babbie (2005) stated that qualitative research gives answers to simple questions. They further stated that qualitative research allows the researcher to gain in-depth insight into the perceptions and views of the participants. Holliday (2007) mentioned that qualitative

research helps researchers explore and understand the lives of the people they intend studying in their own social setting. The researcher in this study was able to mingle and interact in order to better understand and uncover the views and perceptions of the participants on the use of CSGs and FCGs.

3.6 Sampling methods

In a qualitative study, a sample of a larger population is selected for any study as it is not necessary to collect data from every member of the community. Gentles *et al* (2015) asserted that sampling is a process or technique of selecting a representative part of an entire population for the purpose of determining findings based on the whole population.

A sample of 16 beneficiaries from 16 different households of which 8 were CSG recipients and 8 were FCG recipients was used. The sample group consisted of people residing in Umbumbulu. The researcher did not specifically intend to sample females. The sample group was selected based on whether they are CSG or FCG recipients and not on gender or racial variation. The sample group was selected using both purposive and snowball sampling. Purposive sampling was adopted due to the nature of the research question. The study looked specifically at FCG and CSG recipients, therefore the researcher required participants that are in receipt of these social grants.

Neuman (1997) described purposive sampling as a process whereby the participants are preselected according to a criterion that is relevant to a particular research question, in this case – participants who are recipients of the CSG and the FCG. Purposive sampling is appropriate in three aspects: firstly, the researcher used this method to select unique cases that are informative. Secondly, purposive sampling may be used to select members of a difficult-to-reach and specialized population. Neuman (1997) thirdly illustrated that purposive sampling also occurs when a researcher wants to identify specific types of cases for in-depth investigation. The researcher decides what needs to be known and sets out to find people who can and are willing to provide the information by knowledge or experience (Bernard 2002, Lewis & Sheppard 2006). This particular study also used snowball sampling as it is considered a type of purposive sampling. Holliday (2002) described snowball sampling which is also known as chain referral sampling as a method where the participants use their networks to refer the researcher to other people who could also possibly participate in the study – in this case other participants also accessing the social grants. Social grant recipients know each other in the area; therefore,

the participants were requested to refer participants that they may know in the area and who were willing to participate in the research.

3.7 Data collection method

This research used interviewing as a method of collecting data from the participants. Mouton and Prozesky (2003) mentioned that a qualitative interview is an interaction between the interviewer and the participant. They further asserted that a qualitative interview is a conversation whereby the interviewer establishes a general direction for the conversation and pursues specific topics that are raised by the respondent during the interview. Peter (1981) stated that interviewing is a basic mode of inquiry. Seidman (2006) emphasized that interviewing provides access to the context of people's behaviours and thereby provides a way for researchers to make meaning of that behaviour. This research used in-depth interviewing as this method helps the researcher to understand the lived experiences of the participants.

Siedman (2006) asserted that the basic assumption of in-depth interviewing research is that the meaning people make of their experiences affects the way that they carry out that experience.

The interviews were reflexive as participants were to respond whilst reflecting on their own experiences and knowledge. The interviews were also iterative and continuous. The researcher used skills such as probing in order for the interviews to be continuous. Probing was also used to get the participants to elaborate and explain their responses further.

According to Spardley (1979) interviewing covers a wide range of practices. These practices are tightly structured, survey interviews with normally closed questions. Spardley (1979) further mentioned that there are also open ended- questions which are unstructured, anthropological interviews that according to Spardley (1979) are friendly conversations. Ritchie *et al* (2003) defined basic interviews as one of the frequently used strategies of collecting data in qualitative research. They further illustrated that basic individual interviewing differs from other interviews in that they are open interviews which allows the participants to speak for themselves rather than participants being given predetermined hypothesis-based questions.

An interview schedule was used in this study to collect data from the interviews. Gill *et al* (2008) defined an interview schedule as a list of pre-set structured questions that are prepared in order to guide the interviewer in the data collection process. The interviewer asked respondents which language they wanted the interviews to be conducted in, all respondents stated that they were comfortable with the interviews being conducted in Zulu. The

interviewer had devised a Zulu translated interview schedule which was used. All the interviewing schedules were devised with the exact same questions. The researcher asked the questions in the same manner across all participants.

3.8 Data analysis method

Thorne (2000) stated that data analysis is a complex and mysterious phase in qualitative projects. He further stated that analysis occurs as an explicit step in interpreting the entire data set, using specific analytic strategies to transform raw data into a new and coherent depiction of the area that is being studied.

Thematic analysis was used to analyse the data that was collected from the research participants. Guest *et al* (2012) mentioned that applied thematic analysis is a type of inductive analysis of qualitative data that may involve several analytic techniques. Thematic analysis requires more involvement and interpretation from the researcher. This method of analysis moves beyond counting explicit phrases or words and focuses on identifying and describing explicit and implicit ideas within the data. The ideas are referred to as themes. Codes are then developed to represent the identified themes which are then linked or applied to raw data as summary markers for the analysis at a later stage. This method of analysis was chosen because it is according to Guest *et al* (2012) still the most useful method of analysis as it captures the complexities of meaning within a textual data set.

3.9 Ethical considerations

As this study involved human beings as participants, it was very crucial for the researcher to follow the relevant ethical considerations at all stages of the interviewing process. This study adopted the three ethical guidelines that are outlined by Kvale (1996), these ethical guidelines are; informed consent, confidentiality and consequences. The researcher informed all the participants of the purpose of the study. The researcher also informed the participants of the main features of the study as well as possible risks and benefits of them participating in this particular study. According to Farrimond (2013) morality or ethics refers to what is believed to be “right” and “wrong” in terms of acceptable conduct. Ethical practice in social research involves consciously taking into consideration ethical values and making decisions based on them.

Confidentiality was maintained throughout the study; this means that personal and private information of participants was not reported. Participants were also assured of confidentiality and the use of pseudonyms in reporting.

The University of KwaZulu – Natal (UKZN) Higher Degrees Committee and the Ethics Committee granted approval for the researcher to conduct this study and fieldwork only commenced once an ethical clearance letter had been obtained. The researcher adhered to the procedures and protocols outlined by the UKZN Ethics Committee and these procedures and protocols bind every UKZN researcher. Walman *et al* (2005) asserted that the principles underlying research ethics are universal and are concerning of issues such as honesty and respect for people's rights regardless of age, gender or race.

3.10 Informed consent

This research study adopted informed consent in order to ensure that the participants had a clear understanding of their participation in the study so that they could decide whether they were willing to participate or not. Neuman (1997) noted a fundamental ethical principle of social research is that participation is voluntary. He further asserted that it is not enough to attain permission from the participants, the researcher must clearly inform the participants exactly of what they are being asked to participate in so that they can be able to make an informed decision.

All persons that participated in this particular study were informed of the purpose of the research; they were also informed of what was expected of them as participants as well as the time period which they were required to participate. Possible risks and benefits of participation were also disclosed to the participants. The researcher clarified to the participants that their participation was voluntary and that they have a right to withdraw at any time. The researcher had informed consent forms printed in English and IsiZulu in order to accommodate participants with their language preferences. The researcher further provided participants with contact details of the researcher and those of the UKZN Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee should they encounter any problems, questions and concerns.

The researcher followed the 8 points that an informed consent statement should contain as asserted by Neuman (1997). These points are that an informed consent statement should include:

- A brief description of the research purpose and procedures, including expected duration of the study.
- A statement of risks and discomfort associated with participation in the research study.
- The researcher must guarantee anonymity and confidentiality
- The identification and contact details of the researcher to be available to participants.
- A statement stating that participation is voluntary.
- A statement of an alternative procedures that may be used should needs be.
- A statement of risks and benefits to the study.
- An offer to provide a summary of the findings.

3.11 Limitations to the study

The first limitation of this research study was that data collection was only limited to 16 people. This means that the research findings are also limited, therefore making it impossible for the researcher to generalise across the population based on a sample of 16 participants. Secondly, all the participants were females, this limited the study from obtaining male views and perceptions. The interviews were initially planned to be held at the local Library, however, some of the participants requested that the interviewer come to their homes to conduct the interviews as they were able to leave their homes due to child or adult care.

3.12 Conclusion

The research methods that were utilised in this research study assisted the researcher to gain an understanding to whether the CSG and FCG are serving their initial purpose of meeting the basic needs of vulnerable children. This was achieved through the interaction between the researcher and the participants through a qualitative case study.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter aims to give a reflection and description of the research findings of data that was collected from the research participants. The data was collected in the form of in-depth interviews in order to gather whether the Child Support Grant (CSG) and Foster Care Grant (FCG) are serving their purpose of meeting the basic needs of vulnerable children. The research case study was conducted in Umbumbulu.

This chapter further connects the research findings to the objectives of the study as well as the research questions. The research findings also discusses and describes the responses of the participants to the themes that were outlined in the previous chapters. During the data analysis process, pseudonyms were allocated to the research participants.

4.2 The functions of the CSG and the FCG as social protection programmes.

This study found that the distribution of the CSG and the FCG to the beneficiaries helps to mitigate poverty as they are able to engage in economic activity with the grants. The study further found that the CSG and the FCG in South Africa render financial support to those who are unable to support themselves. This study further highlights the functions of social protection as stated by Sabates-Wheeler & Devereux (2007), These functions are social protection, prevention of deprivation, promotion of income and social transformation. This research study was able to realise the function of protection and the function of transformation as outlined by Sabates-Wheeler & Devereux (2007). These functions are discussed below.

Protection: This study discovered that the CSG and the FCG render social protection to vulnerable groups as it provides them with some financial and social relief.

Transformation: This also found that the CSG and the FCG promote social equity and inclusion through the upholding of the rights of socially vulnerable groups and sensation campaigns. The Constitution of South Africa emphasizes that basic social provisioning for vulnerable people must be progressively realised.

4.3 The main uses of the CSG and FCG in households

The CSG is paid out to the primary care givers of children under the age of 18 living in poverty. The grant is meant to cater to the basic needs of the children. Nosipho mentioned that she used

to receive the CSG whilst she was at tertiary but has since cancelled it as she now has full time employment. Nosipho stated that:

The CSG is mostly used to cater to the child's food supplies because the father used to contribute with the nappies (chats in the background). and.....(silence) I also had the fabric nappies, I was not lazy to wash but food was very expensive I would get 1 packet of Infacare Formula because at that time they were R300 and something. I mainly used the CSG for milk and purity and the father would assist with clothing and nappies.

The FCG in South Africa is a social grant that is designed to take care of a child that is orphaned, abandoned, at risk, abused or neglected. For instance, in explaining the main uses of the FCG, Nompilo who is in receipt of the FCG for 3 children stated that:

I had to pay off debts with the first pay-out, the second pay-out the children concerned were going to school farewells and I had to buy clothing for them, they also had to do their hair for the occasion. The third pay-out was used to buy the children's Christmas things. The last two months' pay-outs have been going towards groceries. The next payout that will be received next month I am planning to buy school things and food.

The research findings revealed that the CSG and FCG are mainly used to cater to the basic needs of the children and those of the family at large. On the basis that all 16 participants stated that they use the grant money on the children and groceries, the researcher concluded that the CSG and the FCG are mainly used for the basic needs of the children and the households. These include groceries and school necessities. The research also revealed that the CSG and FCG improve people's standard of living and lifts them out of absolute poverty.

4.4 The impacts of the CSG and FCG on education

This study established that CSG and FCG are successful poverty alleviation strategies in Umbumbulu in that they support education which is a significant factor in poverty alleviation. These grants have positive impacts on education as beneficiaries reported that they use the grants for school necessities, travel and food. This gives an illustration that without the grants some children would not have basic school necessities, and this would negatively impact their schooling. The application of the CSG and FCG requires proof that the child concerned is enrolled at school. The participants reported that as this is one of the prerequisites by the South

African Social Security Agency, a child of school-going-age must be at school for the application to be approved. Nozi stated that:

Ei my child, you see... if it was not for iqolo (referring to CSG) I have no idea what I would do, I don't know how these children would be going to school to tell you the truth. You see me, I am unemployed and not receiving the pension ...(silence) eiyyyyy because I'm still 58 years old. So now I have to wait 2 years for the pension. I'm very sick with diabetes so I can't find work and who wants to hire an old sgogwana (granny) like me ... ha ha ha ha (laughter).

4.5 The role of the CSG and FCG on poverty alleviation

According to the research findings, the CSG and the FCG alleviate poverty in most of the households from the participants of the study in Umbumbulu. It was also established through the study that the CSG and the FCG improves people's access to food as it gives them buying power.

The research study found that the FCG and CSG are highly important because of the wide extent of poverty in Umbumbulu. A number of 15 participants out of the total 15 stated that they are unemployed and are reliant on the CSG or the FCG shows the importance of these social grants amongst vulnerable groups. The grants provide broader support to households, this means that the grants are not only of benefit to their beneficiaries, but they also support other family members with, for example, groceries and transport money. The research participants made mention that they mostly rely on the grants for basic necessities, especially groceries. This shows the importance of the CSG and FCG in people's lives, it also illustrates the role that these grants play towards poverty alleviation. Nokubonga asserted that:

Siyakhala phela ngoba sabantu (we complain because it's in our human nature to complain) but our government is doing soooooo much. Yeeey our government feeds us we don't go to bed hungry and the children are also fed at school. They are also given school stationary. Shame we see the efforts of our government and we are very thankful

Essentially, social grants tend to provide for people that are unable to provide for themselves. This research study ascertained that the CSG and FCG encourages people to seek employment as the grant is not enough to cater to people's basic needs. The research study also found that as much as the CSG and FCG actually encourage people to seek employment, it also greatly

depends on the total amount of the grant that they are receiving as well as the number of people that are relying on the grant. Nozipho mentioned that:

I don't want to lie, both my child and myself benefitted from the grant because I was still studying when I had my child.....(silence) I would use the grant toward the needs of the child. It helped me a great lot, we both benefitted ehhhh. I would also use the grant for my own things that I needed.

Mmmmm some people, I think it also depends on how much you receive you see...(smiles) maybe if you are receiving it for 2 children for instance ayyyy in that case some people are able to chill because they are able to go to bed full especially when the children are grown...(hand demonstration) yabona (you see) as there are not that many responsibilities and when the child is still too young. Other people able to sit and not be stressed (about seeking employment) but some people want to get more than what the grant offers.

Nonceba argued that the amount of the CSG is not enough and is in fact too little, this encourages her to constantly seek employment. This shows that the amount of the grant being small can also act as a motivator for one to want more and engage more in job hunting. The participants all shared that they appreciate the social grant that they receive from the state, they also stated that it is not enough to cater to all their needs so they have no other choice but to continuously seek employment.

Seeking employment, especially formal employment requires money in terms of time and resources. The study found that the grants can help to cover some of the material costs involved in job seeking, such as transport to interviews, making copies of curriculum vitae's and airtime. Sinothando mentioned that:

Hmmmm (sigh) I don't think that one can be able to meet all the basic needs of a person with the grant alone. The grant is for the child and you must meet the needs of the child every month and maybe you can use some for yourself but it is not much. Maybe you can use the child grant to meet one of your needs but not all of them, you still need to go and look for a job so that you can do everything you like for yourself and your family. So you end up using the grant for transport to town and the mall to drop-off CV's

4.6 The CSG and FCG in supporting informal trading

This study found that 4 of the 16 participants were able to start their informal trade businesses with support from either the FCG or CSG. Noli who is in receipt of the FCG in respect of her four grandchildren, stated that when she received her first pay out from SASSA, she started selling Avon Cosmetics.

For me the first CSG money that I received for my two children was doubled. I had already planned that I would use it to purchase Avon Cosmetics to sell in my community. So when I received the pay-out, I did exactly that... I have now been selling the cosmetics for almost 2 years now. It really helps me a lot as it boosts the CSG and I am able to meet the needs of my family.

Nontobeko who is in receipt of CSG in respect of her two children has also been able to start a small business of her own by selling children's snacks from her house, such as sweets and chips as well as airtime and prepaid electricity. The research further found that 4 people are able to engage in the informal trade to make extra cash as they are unemployed. It was ascertained that the CSG and the FCG encourages its participants to start informal businesses on the side to help boost the grants. This is because the grants alone are not adequate to meet the family's basic needs.

4.7 The CSG and FCG challenges

During the study, all the research participants who are in receipt of FCG stated that the children whose grants they are receiving are either orphans or one parent is deceased and the other is unknown. These participants stated that the death certificates of the parents or newspaper adverts are crucial in order for their applications for the FCG to be approved by the Department of Social Development (DSD). A number of six participants revealed that if the whereabouts of one of the biological parents are unknown, they are then required to do a newspaper advert in attempt to find the missing parent. The researcher discovered that the majority of FCG recipients are under the impression that the grant is only limited to orphaned children. According to the Children's Act no 30 of 2005, the FCG is for children who are without any visible means of support, this Act emphasizes that the FCG is not only limited to orphaned children. The FCG also benefits abandoned children and children whose parents have been imprisoned.

Another challenge that the researcher identified is the amount of time it takes for the application process of the FCG. Five of the participants who are in receipt of the grant stated that their applications took an amount of four to five months. A total number of 3 of the participants stated that their applications took over a year. This is in contravention of the Children's Act no 38 of 2005, as this Act states the application should not take longer than 3 months.

The participants further revealed that there is too much paperwork required from them for the application and processing of the FCG. They stated that they are required to submit three certified copies of death certificates and three certified unabridged birth certificates and three certified copies of their identity documents and proof of residence. In addition, FCG applicants are given Form 30 to fill out at the post office at the price of R31.00 and have to then wait for the response. The Form 30 is a request to National Department of Social Development to have their names checked against the register for sexual offenders, school confirmations and the newspaper advertises if necessary which cost R85.00. It is evident that people who are applying for the FCG should have money to gather the documentation that has been mentioned as well as the back and forth travelling involved in the application process of this grant. This is a challenge as some people cannot afford to do so due to poverty and unemployment.

4.8 Social assistance as social justice

The study further gathered that the CSG and FCG gives people some level of social protection, as the beneficiaries are able to meet their basic human needs with the assistance of these grants. The research revealed that the CSG and FCG gives its beneficiaries buying power, they have some form of income which assists them in mitigating poverty.

4.9 How the CSG and the FCG encourage engagement in political and economic activities

This study discovered that social grants encourage people to engage in political activities. Three of the participants made mention that social grants encourage them to vote. They revealed that they think this is one of the promises that government made to the people of South Africa that was kept. It is therefore apparent that the provision of basic human needs encourages people to engage in political activities. Busi alluded that:

Our government really is doing a big thing for us and we always appreciate it, there are no job opportunities, so the grant is helpful. Our government is delivering some of the things they promised us when we voted.

4.10. Conclusion

The themes that have been discussed in this chapter reveal that the CSG and the FCG play a crucial role in households in Umbumbulu area. This chapter shows that these grants are crucial in mitigating poverty in this area. It has been ascertained through this research study that the CSG and FCG are not enough to meet all the basic needs of the households but they are able to greatly assist.

This study supports Munro (2008) in his notion that there are three concepts which are the main supporters of social protection: rights, risks and needs. Social assistance interventions such as the CSG and FCG are implemented in response to social risks such as unemployment, ill health and natural hazards. Social assistance interventions are also implemented on the basis of human and social rights as stipulated in the South African Constitution. The social assistance interventions such as the CSG and FCG are the responsibility of the state.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a discussion of the findings presented in chapter four. The aim of the study was to gauge an understanding into whether the Child Support Grant (CSG) and Foster Care Grant (FCG) are serving their purpose to meet the basic needs of vulnerable children.

This research undertook a qualitative study with 16 participants from the rural area of Umbumbulu in EThekweni Municipality. The 16 participants are either in receipt of the CSG or the FCG.

This chapter seeks to incorporate the key themes that were outlined in chapter four. This chapter will also outline gaps and challenges that have been identified by the researcher in undertaking this study. The chapter also intends to suggest recommendations on how the CSG and the FCG programmes can be improved – the limitations of these recommendations are noted however given the small sample size.

5.2 Overview of the research study

The influence of social assistance programmes on the lives of people has been immense hence leading to a number of theories and approaches such as the social citizenship theory, the sustainable livelihood approach and the social rights theory. These theories and approaches seek to understand the social assistance phenomenon and its impacts on people and were applied in this study. This study was done in order to ascertain the extent to which the CSG and the FCG supports poor households. The study also undertook to gauge into whether the CSG and the FCG are serving their purpose of meeting the basic needs of their beneficiaries.

5.3 Data analysis

This research study used thematic analysis as a method of analysing the data that had been collected from the participants. The researcher adopted this data analysis method because it is flexible and is fitting to this particular study. Braun and Clarke (2006) described thematic analysis as the process whereby the researcher identifies, analyses and reports patterns within the data that has been collected. During this process, the researcher focused on data that had been gathered, identifying commonalities in the data as well as assigning the common data with codes, the researcher also focused on the identification of patterns, themes, sequences and differences, the construction of matrices, constantly comparing and contrasting data.

5.4 Overview of households accessing the CSG and the FCG

More than half of the 16 research participants pointed to the social grant that they are receiving as having enabled them to purchase household groceries and necessities. They stated that their home situations have improved from how things were prior to the presence of the social grants. These grants were initially implemented to assist individuals and households that are stricken by poverty so that they can be able to meet their basic needs of the children that are under their care. The sustainable livelihood approach was applied in this study to improve understanding of the CSG and the FCG recipient's households. The study also looked at whether the CSG and the FCG constrain or enhance livelihood opportunities. This study investigated the quality of rights with regards to the CSG and the FCG that recipients hold as well as how these rights enable the recipients to pursue their goals as the social citizenship theory asserts. The social rights theory makes mention that the state must make provisions of basic necessities to vulnerable groups. This study looked at whether the South African state is making the provision of basic necessities to the vulnerable citizens in the country.

This study adopted the economic theory of the household in order to capture the complex structures of households as well as their behaviour as stated by Wiro (1999). Wiro explained the economic theory of the household as a theory that attempts to capture the structures of households and their behaviours. This theory looks at the demographic structure, decision-making process, resource allocation, means of earning income and division of labour. This research study gained an insight on how the grants are spent in the households. The researcher found that the grants are mainly used to buy food and school necessities for the children. This research study further found that the CSG and FCG further extend from meeting the basic needs of the children, but they also benefit the whole household.

5.5 The CSG and the FCG as social rights

According to Kelly (2017), the current monthly amount of the CSG is R440 00 in February 2020. This grant is paid out to the parent or primary care giver of a child or children who reside in the South African Republic. Non- biological parents of the child are required to provide proof that they are the primary care givers of the children for whom they intend making a grant application for. This proof can be in a form of a sworn affidavit from a police officer, a social workers report, an affidavit by the child's biological parent or a letter from the school principal where the child concerned is enrolled. The CSG is eligible to children under the age of 18 years

and who are not under the care of a state institution. A care giver cannot apply for more than 6 nonbiological children or legally adopted children.

The CSG in South Africa is means tested. The means test is that a single care giver or parent must not earn above R48 000 annually and R4 000 monthly to be eligible for the grant. If the parent or caregiver is married, the combined salary must not be more than R96 000 annually and R8 000 a month.

Kelly (2017) asserted that the value of the FCG in South Africa is currently R1040.00 per child per month. In order for a child to qualify for this grant, the South African Children's Act no 30 of 2005 section 180 (1) stipulates that a child in foster care is a child placed in the care of a person who is not the parent or guardian of the child as a result of either (a) an order of a children's court or (b) a transfer in terms of section 17 of the same Act.

It is also a requirement that the child must reside in South Africa and there must be a court order indicating that the foster parent has been elected by the Children's Court as the designated carer of the child concerned. There is no means test for parents applying to foster.

The social rights theory makes consciousness of people's rights to social assistance. According to Hunt (2017) the social rights theory further emphasises that people who are unable to support themselves as well as their dependents must have access to social assistance in order to meet their basic needs. Hunt (2017) further makes mention that social grants in South Africa are paid out to people that cannot support themselves and their dependents financially. This study found that some families in Umbumbulu rely only on social grants for survival. This theory further highlights that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that people's right to social assistance is adequately met. The study established that in South Africa the CSG and FCG are provided by the state through the agency of the Department of Social Development. This agency is known as the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and is responsible for processing and paying out social grants in the country. Study participants seemed satisfied that their social rights with respect the grants system was working to the extent that they even attributed it as a reason they continued voting during elections. The only aspect of the grant system which may be impacting on these rights is that participants are burdened with a heavy paperwork process to apply for the grants. There is also expense involved in terms of transport costs to apply and the cost of application forms such as the Form 30.

5.6 The CSG and FCG as means of poverty alleviation

According to Satumba *et al* (2010), the increased coverage of the social grants in South Africa has significantly contributed towards the reduction of poverty as these grants have become the main source of income for most poor households. The grants have significantly improved people's standard of living by slightly flattening the curve from the disheartening effects of poverty. Since the introduction and implementation of social grants, poor households have some form of income to help them to meet their basic needs. Social assistance grants in South Africa are mainly for the mitigation of poverty and the promotion of socio-economic development. Leibbrandt *et al* (2010) outlined that a number of poor households reported an improvement in their welfare state due to the receipt of social grants. Leibbrandt *et al* (2010) further reported that a total number of households belonging in the poorest quintiles who were in receipt of the CSG increased from 16 percent to 69 percent between the years 1997 and 2006. He also reported that during this period, a percentage of 53 households were lifted out of poverty.

Van Der Berg *et al* (2010) stated that social grants decreased the poverty rate amongst poor households from 55.4 percent to 47.1 percent in the year 2008. Van Der Berg *et al* (2010) further reported that the number of parents and care givers who reported that they had no food for their families decreased from 31 percent to 17 percent between the year 2002 and 2008 due to the social grant receipt.

This research study also established that social grants specifically the CSG and FCG play a significant role in the mitigation of poverty. This means that these grants are serving their purpose in South Africa. The grants were implemented to benefit the children; however, it has been discovered that these grants go beyond supporting their intended beneficiaries as they also support the entire households. This is not to say that the amounts of these grants far surpasses their purpose, but this is because people are able to stretch out the little that they get for the benefit of the whole family. Scoones (2015) described the sustainable livelihood approach as an approach to the eradication of poverty in a state. This approach acknowledges that attention must be given to processes and programs that have an intent to enhance the ability of poor citizens to live in an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable manner, asserts Krants (2001). The CSG and the FCG programmes in South Africa were initiated to eradicate poverty in the country, this study found that benefiting households mostly use the grants to purchase food. This gives an indication that the CSG and the FCG are positive programmes that are benefiting the poor and mitigating absolute poverty.

This research study looked at how the CSG and FCG promotes and contributes to sustainable livelihoods in households. The study found that people are able to utilize the grants to pay for basics such as food. Beyond this however the grant increases their capabilities in terms of starting their own informal trades to ensure that there is extra income beyond the grant. People receiving the grant are further motivated to also seek employment in order to have other sustainable means of income generation and not depend solely on the grants. Here again, the grant is of assistance in paying for airtime and transport related to job seeking. In this sense the grants help towards building a form of sustainable income beyond the monthly state pay-out. The fact that participants argue the grant encourages employment seeking rather than encouraging 'living off the grant' suggests that the grant allows a sense of dignity that comes with having capabilities increased.

5.7 The impacts of CSG and FCG on social citizenship

The social citizenship theory is defined by Turner (1993) as a set of practices that define a person as a competent community member. The social citizenship theory is also concerned with the flow of resources to people and social groups, social rights and obligations. This research observed that people's rights to social welfare are being met by the state in South Africa through the provision of social grants to those who meet the pre-requisites. The state implemented the CSG and the FCG in order to attempt to ensure that qualifying persons are able to live in a civilized manner.

The research study has shown the significance of the CSG and FCG in poor households in the Umbumbulu area, particularly in improved nutrition, school attendance and food security. Social grants strengthen social citizenship by ensuring that households have food security and the children are able to attend school. Promoting access to basic social rights achieves (to an extent) what Marshall (2006) terms 'class abatement' where people with disadvantage are guaranteed a basic level of living giving them a better chance of opportunities to improve their lives.

Social citizenship is not only limited to the state providing social assistance to its people. Social citizenship should also encourage sustainability. In as much as social assistance is the responsibility of the state, the state should also encourage and implement sustainability programmes to the poor so that they can take themselves out of poverty and leave the social welfare system. This study found that 4 of the total 16 participants started their informal trade

with either the CSG or the FCG in order to generate extra income to assist them maintain themselves and their families even in the absence of social grants.

5.8 Recommendations

The main recommendation that was made from this study is that the grant applications must be made simpler and affordable for the applicants. The application processes involved (transport, photocopying of documents) were reported to be costly on the applicants who are already poor. It is further recommended based on the findings of this research study that the amount of the CSG be increased as it does not stretch very far. The Centre for Social Protection and Children in Distress network and Family for Every Child (2016) also recommended an urgent ease on the application requirements and procedures for financial support for kinship guardians. It was further recommended by The Centre for Social Protection and Children in Distress network and Family for Every Child (2016) that there should be an improvement on the effectiveness and efficiency of social service professionals in order to ensure that social workers are not overburdened by the administration of the FCG.

5.9 Conclusion

This study highlighted the positive role that is played by the CSG and FCG in Umbumbulu households. This study also analysed the impacts of unemployment on the participants receiving the grants finding that social grants encourages employment seeking. This research also established that social grants do not necessarily create dependency by beneficiaries. Participants mentioned that the social grants are not enough to meet their basic needs hence they are constantly seeking for employment. The grants also assist them engaging in the informal sector in order to make extra money. Social grants have proven to be very effective in the mitigation of absolute poverty in South Africa. These social grants are mainly used for food necessities, employment seeking and school necessities for the children.

This study implies and highlights the high reliance on the CSG and the FCG in the rural area of Umbumbulu. This study further ascertained that this high reliance on social grants is mainly driven by poverty and unemployment in South Africa. The study findings were limited due to the fact that the sample size was small for a full representation of CSG and FCG recipients in Umbumbulu. The study participants were all of the same gender classification (Female), this means that the perspectives and experiences of male CSG and FCG recipients in Umbumbulu were not gathered.

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Attachment A

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Topic: A gauge into whether the Child Support Grant (CSG) and Foster Care Grant (FCG) are serving their purpose to meet the basic needs of vulnerable children: A case Study of Umbumbulu.

Student/ Researcher: Nondumiso Madlala

Supervisor: Shauna Mottiar

Year: 2019

Demographic information

1. What is your age?

Age groups	Please tick
18 - 29	
30 – 39	
40 – 49	
50 - 59	
60+	

2. What is your gender?

Gender	Please tick
Male	

Female	
--------	--

3. What is your marital status?

Marital status	Please tick
Married	
Never Married	
Divorced/ Separated	
Widow/ Widower	
Customary Union	
Cohabiting	

4. What is your education level?

Education level	Please tick
Primary level	
Secondary level	
Matriculated	
Tertiary level	
None	

5. What is your employment status?

Employment status	Please tick
Informal	
Full time	
Part time	
Unemployed	

Research questions

1. Are you receiving CSG or FCG?

Type of grant	Please tick
Child Support Grant (CSG)	
Foster Care Grant (FCG)	

2. How many children are you receiving the grant for?
3. How do you spend the grant?
4. How does the grant improve the standard of living of the child concerned?
5. Who benefits from the grant?
6. Do you think the grant helps to alleviate poverty? Is the grant enough? Would you manage your household expenses without the grant?
7. Does anyone in your family work?
8. Do you think the grant urges people to seek employment?
9. Do you think the grants are able to meet the needs of the child?
10. Does the grant money help with finding a job e.g. money for transport, phone calls etc for job applications?
11. Does the grant money go towards an informal business e.g. a vegetable garden or informal trading etc?

Attachment B:

UKZN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (HSSREC)

**APPLICATION FOR ETHICS APPROVAL
For research with human participants**

INFORMED CONSENT RESOURCE TEMPLATE

Note to researchers: Notwithstanding the need for scientific and legal accuracy, every effort should be made to produce a consent document that is as linguistically clear and simple as possible, without omitting important details as outlined below. Certified translated versions will be required once the original version is approved.

There are specific circumstances where witnessed verbal consent might be acceptable, and circumstances where individual informed consent may be waived by HSSREC.

Information Sheet and Consent to Participate in Research

Date: 08 April 2019

Greeting: Ladies and gentlemen's I greet you all.

My name is Nondumiso Madlala. I am a Development Studies Masters student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College campus, South Africa. My email address is 207520057@stu.ukzn.ac.za and my contact number 082 321 9597.

You are invited to consider participating in a study that involves research on whether the Child Support Grant (CSG) and Foster Care Grant (FCG) are serving their purpose to meet the basic needs of vulnerable children in the case of Umbumbulu area. The aim and purpose of this research is to gain an understanding of how CSG and FCG are spent in the households in

the case of Umbumbulu. The study is expected to enrol a total of 16 participants of which 8 are receiving CSG and 8 receiving FCG. The interviews will be held at the community Library in Umbumbulu. It will involve the following procedures: The researcher will schedule dates and times with each participant to meet at the community library for 30 to 40 minutes. The researcher will then ask the questions. Permission will be asked from participants to record during the sessions on tape to ensure everything said during the sessions is taken the way participants meant it. After the session the audio-recording will be transcribed word by word. During transcribing pseudonyms will be used.

There will be no risks and/or discomforts involved in the study. The study will provide no direct benefits to participants. Participants will all be treated equal; the researchers will make sure that all participants feel comfortable whenever they are in a session.

This study has been ethically reviewed and approved by the UKZN Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (approval number_____).

In the event of any problems or concerns/questions you may contact the researcher at 207520057@stu.ukzn.ac.za or 082 321 9597 or the UKZN Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, contact details as follows:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION

Research Office, Westville Campus

Govan Mbeki Building

Private Bag X 54001

Durban

4000

KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27 31 2604557- Fax: 27 31 2604609

Email: HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za

Your participation in this research is voluntary. During the data collection process, participant's names will not be mentioned in order to protect their identity. Instead of writing a participant's name during transcribing and analysis data period A, B or C will be used. Job title, age and gender will also be used to help to identify participants. The session will be tape-recorded, but no one will be identified by name on the tape. The information recorded is confidential and no one else except my

supervisor and I will have access to the tapes. The tapes will be destroyed when the study has been completed. There will be no direct benefits to you, but this research will help you in terms of understanding why CSG AND FCG exist and whether they are serving their purpose.

Participants will not be refused withdrawal from participating in the study at any time.

Securing stored data helps at preventing unauthorized people from using or accessing the information. Records of a research will be stored and protected in a paper or digital form in a protected place or location on campus as a way of avoiding access to unauthorized persons.

Specific care ought to be taken to protect data on computers and other portable devices. Paper records identifying research participants including consent forms and data files will be kept in a secure location with access restricted to key study personnel. Supervisor and the researcher will be the only people who have access to the storage place. Digital records like electronic devices, the file of the research will have a protected password with secure back-up. Audio and videos will be stored in a secure manner until the information is transcribed and erased if it is necessary.

CONSENT (Edit as required)

I have been informed about the study entitled 'A gauge into whether the Child Support Grant AND Foster Care Grant are serving their purpose to meet the basic needs of vulnerable children: A case study of Umbumbulu' by Nondumiso Madlala.

I understand the purpose and procedures of the study.

I have been given an opportunity to answer questions about the study and have had answers to my satisfaction.

