VALIDITY OF CLAIMS OF A DEPENDENCY SYNDROME AMONGST BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS: SOCIAL GRANT RECIPIENTS IN BOPHELONG AND ITS INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

A report on a research study presented to

The Department of Social Work
School of Human and Community Development
Faculty of Humanities
University of the Witwatersrand

In partial fulfilment of the requirements
For the degree Master of Arts in Social Work

By

DINEO PAULINA TSEEKE

March, 2015

Supervisor: Linda Smith (PhD)
DECLARATION

I declare that this research report is my own work, that it has not been submitted to any university before and that all the sources cited herein have been indicated and acknowledged as complete references.

………………………….

Dineo Paulina Tseeke

March 2015
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost I would like to thank the Almighty God for preserving my life and that of my loved ones and for the strength and courage to undertake this study. I am truly blessed and highly favoured.

I extend my thankfulness to my supervisor, Dr Linda Smith, I could not have done this research without her patience, support, guidance and... I could go on. I have no words to explain my appreciation for the time and effort you took to make this research a success. You are the best.

I would like to thank my family, most importantly my mother ‘Mankhaoana and my father Moeketsi Tseeke without their unending support both financially and emotionally this research would have been unsuccessful. Thank you, mummy and daddy. A great deal of thanks goes also to my friends for their love and support. Boreane, Aubrey and Kenneth I appreciate the time you took to help me. A great deal of gratitude goes to the congregation of All Saints Anglican church in VanderbijlPark for their prayers.

It would be an immense blunder to leave out my participants; the research would not be the same without you. Thank you for sharing your life stories with me.

Last but not least I would like to thank the Faculty of Humanities and the Department of Social Work for the opportunity to be a student at the University of the Witwatersrand. I am truly humbled.
ABSTRACT

More than R3 billion per month is spent on social grants in South Africa and yet the country is characterized by poverty and underdevelopment challenges, especially in rural areas and informal settlements. Against this background the study intended to investigate abound negative discourses regarding dependency syndrome in social grants recipients including the role of social security in poverty alleviation. Two primary discourses, among adversaries and proponents of social security were explored. The first being that of neo-liberal or conservative views that social welfare perpetuates poverty by creating dependence on the state. The second discourse in contrast, argues that social welfare has as its fundamental goal, the bridging of the poverty gap between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have nots’, offers protection and prevents further deepening of poverty. The study was qualitative in nature and employed a case study approach. The sample was drawn from recipients of both Child Support Grant (CSG) and Disability Grant (DG) recipients in Bophelong and its informal settlements. Eight CSG recipients were recruited from the informal settlements through snow ball selection and 10 DG recipients were solicited both through purposive and snow ball sampling. The participants were interviewed individually in order to explore their views of the role of social security in their survival and in their lives. Research findings from this study revealed that social grants have become the main household income in many families thus, partly contributing to the fight against poverty. The results further indicated that lack of job opportunities and not an inherent dependency serves as the main cause for social grant recipients being unemployed. The conclusion reached from the study is that the practical implementation of the developmental model is lagging behind consequently the grant money is used as an end in itself and not as a means to an end.

KEYWORDS: Dependency syndrome, social security, workare, social development.
ACRONYMS

ANC: African National Congress
BIG: Basic Income Grant
COSATU: Congress of South Africa Trade Union
CSG: Child Social Grant
DSD: Department of Social Development
DG: Disability Grant
ELM: Emfuleni Local Municipality
EPWPs: Expanded Public Works Programmes
GEAR: Growth Employment and Redistribution
ILO: International Labour Organisation
IMF: International Monetary Fund
NDP: National Development Plan
PWDs: People With Disabilities
RDP: Reconstruction and Development Programme
SOAP: State Old Age Pension
SASSA: South African Social Security Agency
OECD: Organisation for Economic Corporation and Development
TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION .................................................................................................................. II

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .............................................................................................. III

ABSTRACT ........................................................................................................................ IV

ACRONYMS .................................................................................................................... V

TABLE OF CONTENTS .................................................................................................. VI

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES ................................................................................ XI

1. CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION .................................................................................. 1

1.1 Background of the study ......................................................................................... 1

1.2 Statement of the problem ....................................................................................... 4

1.3 Definition of key concepts ..................................................................................... 7

1.4 Aim and objectives of the study ............................................................................. 8

1.4.1 Main Aim ........................................................................................................... 8

1.4.2 Specific/secondary objectives ......................................................................... 8

1.5 Research questions ................................................................................................. 8

1.6 Overview of the research methodology ................................................................. 9

1.7 Chapter layout of the report ................................................................................... 9

2. CHAPTER 2: THE LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS .......................................................... 10
2.1 Introduction

2.2 Social security

2.2.1 Conceptualization

2.2.2 Lessons from developed countries

2.2.3 Lessons from developing countries

2.3 Social security legislation in the new South Africa

2.3.1 South African Constitution (1996) and Bill of Rights

2.3.2 Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)

2.3.3 Growth Employment and Redistribution (GEAR)

2.3.4 White Paper for Social Welfare 1997

2.4 Social security strategies in South Africa

2.4.1 Introduction

2.4.2 Disability Grant

2.4.3 Child Support Grant

2.4.4 A statistical summary of social grants in South Africa

2.4.5 Perceived impact of social grants in recipients lives

2.5 Models of social welfare

2.5.1 Introduction

2.5.2 Institutional Model of Social Welfare

2.5.3 Residual Model of Social Welfare

2.5.4 Social Development Model of Social Welfare

2.6 Dependency syndrome
2.7 Welfare and workfare ........................................................................................................25

2.8 Theoretical framework .....................................................................................................26
   2.8.1 Social Development and Capabilities Approach ..................................................26

3. CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY ....................................................................29
3.1 Introduction ......................................................................................................................29
3.2 Research strategy and design .........................................................................................29
3.3 Population, sample and sampling procedures ...................................................................29
   3.3.1 Population ................................................................................................................29
   3.3.2 Sample and sampling procedures ..............................................................................30
3.4 Research instrumentation .................................................................................................31
   3.4.1 Semi structured interview .......................................................................................31
3.5 Pre-testing of the research tool .........................................................................................32
3.6 Methods of data collection ...............................................................................................32
   3.6.1 Individual face to face interview ...............................................................................32
3.7 Data analysis .....................................................................................................................33
3.8 Trustworthiness of the study ...........................................................................................34
3.9 Limitations of the study ..................................................................................................35
3.10 Ethical Considerations ..................................................................................................36
   3.10.1 Introduction ..............................................................................................................36
   3.10.2 Voluntary participation and informed consent ....................................................36
   3.10.3 Anonymity and confidentiality .................................................................................37
   3.10.4 No harm to participants .........................................................................................37

4. CHAPTER 4: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS .........................38
4.1 Introduction...........................................................................................................38
4.2 Section A.............................................................................................................38
  4.2.1 Biographical information of the participants..............................................38
4.3 Section B.............................................................................................................43
  4.3.1 Perceived impact of social security on poverty alleviation among social grant recipients.................................................................45
    4.3.1.1 Motivation for becoming a grant recipient...........................................45
    4.3.1.2 The utilization of the grant...................................................................47
  4.3.2 Perceptions regarding grant dependency and economic support..............48
    4.3.2.1 Perceptions regarding grant dependency.............................................48
    4.3.2.2 Employment seeking............................................................................50
    4.3.2.3 Adequacy of the grant..........................................................................52
    4.3.2.4 Circumstances for grant withdrawal...................................................54
  4.3.3 The participation of grant recipients in economic activities.......................55
    4.3.3.1 Involvement in economic activities.....................................................55
  4.3.4 Available exit strategies for social grant recipients.......................................57
    4.3.4.1 Views regarding responsibility of the government to social welfare......57
    4.3.4.2 Service providers’ role in helping out grant recipients.......................58
  4.3.5 Attitudes towards the grants.........................................................................61

5. CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.........64
5.1 Introduction...........................................................................................................64
5.2 Summary of the main findings..........................................................................64
  5.2.1 Objective 1....................................................................................................64
  5.2.2 Objective 2....................................................................................................65
  5.2.3 Objective 3....................................................................................................66
5.2.4 Objective 4

5.3 Conclusions

5.4 Recommendations

5.4.1 Policy improvement

5.4.2 Improvement of practise

5.4.3 Further research

LIST OF REFERENCES

APPENDICES

Appendix: Interview Schedule

Appendix B1: Participant Information Sheet for CSG recipients

Appendix B2: Participant Information Sheet for DG recipients

Appendix C: Informed Consent form for participation

Appendix D: Informed Consent form for audio-tape recording

Appendix E: Ethics Clearance Certificate
LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table one: Total number of social grants by grant type as at 31 may 2014…………………………………19

Table two: Demographic summary of the participants……………………………………………………………38-40

Table three: An overview of categories, themes and the supporting sub-themes in the interview responses of child support grant and disability grant recipients of Bophelong and its informal settlements……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………43-44

Figure A: Level of education of the participants…………………………………………………………………41

Figure B: Employment status of the participants…………………………………………………………………41