



FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

The effectiveness of Child Focused Non-Governmental Organizations in promoting the rights of children: A case of Murerezi Ward.

By

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APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned people certify that, they read and recommend Midlands State University to accept a dissertation entitled, The effectiveness of Child Focused Non-Governmental Organisations in promoting the rights of children: A case of Murerezi Ward, by Sibanda Lydia in partial fulfilment of BA Honours Degree in Development Studies.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family especially my mother and sister who supported me financially to be able to undergo this degree programme. I also would like to dedicate my work to all my friends who helped me to carry this study.

ABSTRACT

In Zimbabwe, children are the primary victims of poverty, which is the main cause of violation of their fundamental rights. It is important to note that poverty remains the principal cause of the violation of children's rights because lack of funds seriously impedes access to their basic human needs, which are access to health care, water, food, and education. Despite the existence of child focused NGOs; children's rights are still being violated. This realisation has resultantly prompted the need for a study focusing on the effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children riveting to the particular case of Murerezi Ward in Mberengwa District. A study was vital to find out whether child focused NGOs have effectively promoted the rights of children in the area under study and sought to determine whether child focused NGOs approach to child rights promotion is comprehensive and produced intended results. A mixed approach was used in this study. To acquire relevant data the interviews, questionnaires, observation, and focus group discussions was used in Murerezi ward. This helped the researcher to extract relevant information from community members, local leaders, children and child focused NGO staff members. On the ground the community members have witnessed child focused NGOs promoting children's rights through building of schools, ECD centres, clinic, provision of stationery ,textbooks, access to safe drinking water, bicycles and child protection. However, there are still cases of child labour and child marriages. The study revealed the challenges faced by child focused NGOs and shed light on the prospects for effective child rights promotion in Murerezi ward.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children
ARV	Anti Retro Viral
BEAM	Basic Education Assistance Module
BEEP	Bicycle Education Empowerment Programme
BEGE	Basic Education and Gender Equality Programme
BONEPWA	Botswana Network of People living With HIV/AIDS
CCK	Christian Council of Kenya
CPC	Child Protection Committees
CPP	Child Protection Program
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action
ECD	Education Childhood Development
ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Program
FCRA	Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IGATE	Improving Girls Access through Transforming Education
IYDSA	Institute of Youth Development South Africa
LMC	Local Management Committee

MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGOs	Non- Governmental Organizations
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PDHearth	Positive Deviance Hearth
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
PVO	Private Voluntary Organisation Act
RRC	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
RUMP	Reusable Menstrual Pads
SDC	School Development Committee
SNV	Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers
TASO	The Aids Support Organization
UNAID	United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on Rights of Children
VFU	Victim Friendly Unit
VSL	Village Savings and Loans
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WVZ	World Vision Zimbabwe
YSCD	Young Child Survival and Development
ZNSA	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The economic meltdown in Zimbabwe has caused widespread suffering especially in the rural areas of Zimbabwe such as Mberengwa. The economic meltdown was caused by a number of factors such as poor governance, the implementation of Economic Structural Adjustment Program (ESAP), sanctions imposed by the IMF and the European countries, debt crisis and low foreign direct investment. Poor governance in Zimbabwe is evidenced by rampant corruption, lack of democracy, failure to improve on infrastructure, lack of basic amenities and high levels of poverty. The way land reform was carried out resulted in people losing their jobs on farms and lack of food. This has resulted in untold suffering among the citizens especially the children. Children have suffered most because their rights are violated because of the harsh economic conditions. In rural areas such as Mberengwa, there has been widespread violation of children's rights. Climate change has also worsened the situation because it has resulted in increased starvation because of low rainfall. In many cases, children have dropped out of school because of lack of school fees since their parents are retrenched. This is against article number 11 of the ACRWC, which states that children have the right to be educated. In one study of the informal sector carried out by Sachikonye in 1989, children between the age of 9 and 13 years were involved mainly in petty trading of vegetables, fruits, and groundnuts in the markets.

In addition, it is important to note that perennial droughts caused by climate change has resulted in children becoming malnourished and others dying thereby violating the rights of children to live. Because of the worsening economy of Zimbabwe, the government has not been able to improve on infrastructure such as hospitals and schools. This has resulted in children failing to access health facilities and this is against article number 14 of the ACRWC. Due to high levels of poverty in rural areas of Zimbabwe such as Mberengwa, child marriages, child labour and child sexual abuse is rampant. This is in violation of articles number 15 and 16 of the ACRWC. All this caused by the financial crisis in Zimbabwe, which has resulted in children becoming vulnerable. There is also evidence of child abuse in the domestic sector, particularly of older girls who have been reported to be subjected to sexual

harassment by male employers (Sachikonye 1989). The efficacy of existing laws is seriously questioned. Shumba (2006) believes that both local and international laws have failed to protect children against sexual abuse. NGOs such as World Vision, SNV, and Care International in Zimbabwe have come in to promote the rights of children. This is evidenced by various developmental projects aimed at improving the living conditions of children in Murerezi ward. The building and rehabilitation of schools being done by these NGOs is in line with the article number 11 of the ACRWC, which states that children have the right to education. To add on projects such as the building of clinics also shows that World Vision is promoting the rights of children as enshrined in the ACRWC, which states that children have the right to health facilities article number 14. World Vision also has a program called PDHearth, which seeks to prevent children from becoming malnourished since it provides balanced meals from locally produced goods. It has also a Gender Great program, which seeks to reduce child sexual abuse and child marriages in Murerezi ward. This is in line with article number 16 that prohibits any form of child abuse and torture. To add on Care International in Zimbabwe has a program called IGATE, which seeks to improve the girls' access to education. IGATE programme is there to remove the barriers that hinder girls' education. According to Makoni (2013), SNV is playing an important role to increase access to clean and safe drinking water and sanitation. The Reusable pads provided by SNV have increased the attendance of the girl child at school and this is in line with article 11 of the ACRWC which states that measures must be taken to encourage attendance and reduce and reduce drop outs.

1.1 Background to the study

Children are the primary victims of poverty, which is the main cause of violation of their fundamental rights (<http://www.humanium.org/en/poverty/>). Often children are victims of all types of abuse such as neglect, sexual, physical, and emotional. Poverty remains the principal cause of the violation of the rights of the child because lack of funds seriously impedes access to their basic human needs, which is health care, water, food, and education (<http://www.humanium-org/en/feed/>). Despite the progress that has been made in recent years

in Zimbabwe, the situation faced by children is still desperate. The fundamental rights of children are still violated. According to Matare and Jere (2011), Mberengwa is located in annual region 4 of Zimbabwe agro ecological zone, where annual rainfall frequently falls on 400-600mm range. Maximum temperatures are hardly 32 degrees Celsius and minimum temperatures are experienced during the winter season. Mberengwa receives low rainfall and this result in low food security, which results in high infant mortality rate as well as malnutrition among children. In Murerezi, there has been violation of children's rights such as right to education, health facilities, food, participation, protection as well as right to identity. This is caused by widespread poverty because of economic meltdown and the implementation of SAPs. According to World Bank (1996), most poverty studies have found out that partly because of the low-income generating potential of agriculture, poverty is more prevalent in rural areas of Zimbabwe than it is in urban areas. According to Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (2012), page 22 Mberengwa district has a poverty rate of 70.9%. This has contributed to violation of children's rights as some are now child labourers as their parents have failed to get school fees.

In Mberengwa district, there are also inadequate living conditions, which are associated with illness that is more frequent, malnutrition, and overall discomfort for children. The abuse and exploitation of children in Zimbabwe and other developing countries has increased exponentially in recent years (Chakawarika, 2011). Evidence to this effect includes the upsurge in the number of rape cases reported, the escalation of destitute children on the streets and increase of children in orphanages. Additionally, the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation News (2013) reported that children in Zimbabwe face a threat to their well-being because the number of children who are either murdered or sexually abused continues to increase in the country. According to www.humaniun.org/en/Zimbabwe the educational system thus cannot guarantee children's right to an education, as envisioned by the International Convention on Children's Rights.

Moreover, recurring economic and political crises regularly prevent improvements from being made in the domain of education. Despite the improvements in the health and health services in Zimbabwe in general, children from large-scale farm areas and from other urban

poor continue to have high rates of malnutrition and ill health (Loewenson, 1986, Mazor and Sanders, 1988). This undermines the right of children to their survival and development as enshrined in article 6 of the UN Convention. Child sexual abuse is also rampant because of the apostolic churches, which believe in marriage by the Holy Spirit. Child marriages are common in Zimbabwe and 21% children mostly girls are married before the age of 18 (<http://baobabtales.wordpress.com> 2010). Children are detained in the same cells as adults. In addition to being under pressure and abused by their fellow inmates, they are subjected to violence from guards and other prison staff (www.humanium.org/en/Zimbabwe). Zimbabwe's economic situation, aggravated by onslaughts of drought, contributes to a regular depletion of its food supply. Children suffer on a daily basis from famine and its consequences. Their very survival is endangered, they being constantly in danger of dying from hunger (www.humanium.org/en/Zimbabwe). Child Focused NGOS such as World Vision, Care International in Zimbabwe and SNV have chipped in to promote the rights of children. These NGOs have implemented various projects such as building of schools, clinics, toilets, setting up of Child Protection Committees and providing supplementary feeding in a bid to uphold the rights of children. However, despite the existence of these NGOs in Murerezi ward still there are cases of abuse of children's rights. It is the aim of this research, to assess the effectiveness of child focused NGOs, thereby unearthing the reasons, why child rights abuses are still there, despite the existence of NGOs such as World Vision, CARE International and SNV.

1.2 Problem Statement

In Murerezi ward in Mberengwa district there is widespread violation of children's rights. The government of Zimbabwe has ratified the international and regional conventions such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children (ACRWC), and it has passed legislation to promote the rights of children. Despite all this, there is still violation of children's rights. According to Masuku (2012) children are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Some are employed as house cleaners or herdsman and the pay they get is below the poverty datum line. Children in

Murerezi are dropping out of primary school due to lack of school fees, some crossing the border to go and work in South Africa and also the young infants are also malnourished due to lack of a balanced diet. There are rampant cases of child marriages and child sexual abuse especially of the girl child. The violation of children's rights is caused by a number of factors such as the implementation of the SAPs, debt crisis, political instability, and climate change, which has caused abject poverty among the rural populace. In Murerezi, children do not have access to education, health, food, and shelter. Child Focused NGOs such as World Vision, Care International in Zimbabwe and SNV have come in to assist in terms of projects meant to promote the rights and welfare of children. However, notwithstanding the efforts of these organizations in these key areas children still face the challenges that they have been facing for the past decades. The recurring challenges encountered by children in realizing their rights are still evident despite the existence of Child Focused NGOs. The problem this study seeks to address is the increase in violation of children's rights despite the existence of Child Focused NGOs in Murerezi ward. The researcher wants to find out why it is that despite the presence of Child Focused NGOs in Murerezi there is still violation of children's rights.

1.3 Aim

The aim of this research is to assess the effectiveness of Child Focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children in Murerezi ward.

1.4 Objectives

- To establish the reasons behind the child focused NGOs initiation of operations of promoting children's rights.
- To assess the strategies adopted by Child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children.
- To identify challenges faced by Child Focused NGOs in their mission to promote the rights of children.

1.5 Research questions

1. What are the reasons behind the operations of child focused NGOs in Murerezi ward?
2. Are the strategies adopted by child focused NGOs of use?
3. What are the challenges being faced by Child Focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children in Murerezi?

1.6 Significance of the study

The main purpose of this study is to assess the effectiveness of Child Focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children in Murerezi ward. The research aims to find out why despite the existence of child focused NGOs there are still violation of children's rights. Many researches have been carried out on the role of NGOs in promoting the rights of children; however, this research will focus on the effectiveness of Child Focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children. Therefore, the study is significant in that its findings may provide useful information on the contribution of NGOs as alternative providers of social services in developing countries, especially those that have faced unfortunate economic and political blizzards at national level. The study ought to provide a further research and adds some information to an already existing body of knowledge. It is therefore worthwhile to carry out this research because the findings will provide valuable information to the NGOs to implement policies that protects, provide, and allows the participation of children

1.7 Limitations of the study

The limitations were lack of time and finance. In terms of time and finance, it was impossible to study each household in the ward; the researcher therefore used samples as representatives of the ward. The researcher had limited resources and this compromised the quality of the research time spent with children, because they could not be kept for a long time without food or refreshments.

1.8 Definitions of key terms

1.8.1 Child

The Convention on the Rights of the Child in Article 1 defines a child as anyone below the age of eighteen unless stipulated otherwise by laws applicable to the child. Therefore, it gives member states a leeway to either increase or decrease the age limit without violating their rights. The African Charter on the Welfare of Children defines the same child as anyone below the age of eighteen (Ncube, 1998). However, the cultural definition according to customary practice in Zimbabwe states that a person is regarded to still be a child if he or she remains under parental authority rather than chronological age (UNICEF, 2005). Therefore, there are manifest inconsistencies at, national, regional, and international level in the definition of a child; and it is these loopholes, which are manipulated in the violation of the child's rights.

1.8.2 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Child focused NGOs can be defined as those NGOs whose activities impact on children. Child Focused NGOs carry out programmes and activities ranging from withdrawal of children from the streets, adolescent sexual and reproductive health matters, child participation activities through school clubs and support for children with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children. An NGO is a not-for-profit organisation that is largely self-governing rather than depending substantially on the state for its funds (Korten, 1990). They are usually idealised as organisations through which people help others for reasons other than profit and politics (Frantz, 1987). In Africa, NGOs have gained prominence as the leading practitioners of development (Graff & Louw, 1992). Since they have a comparative advantage over the government, NGOs tend to contribute to institutional pluralism by complementing the state (Garutsa, 2001). Although African governments have responded indistinctly to the presence of NGOs, it is generally acknowledged that NGOs have the potential to raise economic resources that could be used for economic, social, and political development (Bratton, 2000). Nevertheless, most African governments perceive NGOs as a threat to their power and influence over the public, due to the political pluralism connoted by

popular development action (Edwards & Hulme, 1992). As highlighted by Moyo, Makumbe, and Raftopoulos (2000), the government has not always been able to address or take the responsibility of protecting the rights of children. The delivery of adequate social services such as improvement of access by the majority, the provision to basic needs such as safe drinking water, education, health and sanitation to mention but a few are typical examples of areas where child development gaps are noticeable (Clark, 1991). Through NGOs, private citizens have sought to augment state efforts by upgrading the standard of these social services (Bebbington & Farrington, 2000). This is supported by Pearce (2000) who argued that in Africa, where a functioning public sector never existed, NGOs have arisen to “fill in the gaps” and to act as a response to failures in the public and private sectors. In Zimbabwe, NGOs are governed and regulated through the NGO Act of 2004, which has been described by Moyo (2005) as a draconian piece of legislation. Briefly, the NGO Act banishes a broader range of NGO activities and provides the government with direct and excessive control over all NGOs. This inadvertently affects NGOs that work on promoting Children rights, especially in cases where the activity did not get the approval of the government.

1.8.3 Children’s Rights

According to Kant (2011), children's rights are the human rights with particular attention to the rights of special protection and care, including their right to association with biological parents, human identity, as well as the basic needs for food, universal state-paid education, healthcare, and criminal laws appropriate for the age and development of the child. Kant (2011) interpretations of children's rights range from allowing children the capacity for autonomous action to the enforcement of children being physically, mentally and emotionally free from abuse, though what constitutes "abuse" is a matter of debate. "A child is any human being below the age of eighteen years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier (Kant, 2011).

1.9 Conclusion

The first chapter's core notion was to introduce the research by giving the background of the study on the effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children as well as justifying the worthiness of the research. Accordingly, the statement of the problem proved that there is need for a research to be carried out in order to bring out issues on the effectiveness of child focused NGOs. The chapter also highlighted the research objectives, research questions, significance of the study, and limitations of the study. The chapter ended by giving the definition of key terms.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The chapter reviews literature on areas to do with the effectiveness of Child Focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children. The chapter also covers the theoretical framework that is applicable to the study, on the effectiveness of Child Focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children, giving a foundation and the base for this research. The chapter also looks into the pieces of work of other scholars, who have researched on the operations of child focused NGOs, their contributions towards the attainment of children's rights and also the challenges they are facing, globally and regionally and thus try to blend them in order to bring out the relevancy and authenticity of this study. The chapter also explains how valid these studies are and will bring out an appreciation of other researches that were conducted in concern with the effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children. It also entails the previous researches and the knowledge gap between the studies that have been done and the one the researcher is venturing on.

2.1 Reasons behind the child focused NGO initiation of operations

Child focused NGOs started operating to promote children's rights. It is important to note that because of bad governance, poverty, introduction of ESAP, low foreign direct investment, conflicts and the global economic recession children's rights are violated. In countries such as Malawi, Zimbabwe, Uganda, DRC, and CAR children's rights are violated. Children no longer have access to basic goods such as water, shelter, food, and clothing. Some children are used as child soldiers and others as sex slaves.

The reasons behind the operations of child focused NGOs are as follows. Children on large-scale farms are already victims of their parents' employment and economic insecurity. About two million people live in large scale farming areas. Surveys indicate that there are about 2.5 to 3, 5 children per household (or 51-64% of household members). With a 1982 estimate of

1.57 million people on farms this would imply a COJIS (an estimate of 800 000 children on large scale farms (CSO, 1985). The most recent survey (February 1990) in one large scale farming area in Mashonaland Central province indicated that one in every eleven children over the age of five years had done some form of labour in the employer's fields in the past year (Loewenson *et al*1990). With about half the children on farms between 5 and 15 years of age, this would imply that about 35000 children work at some point for the large-scale landowners. This figure may overestimate or underestimate) the extent of the problem, depending on how much more common child labour is in Mashonaland Central than in other provinces. However, the number is sufficiently large to indicate that the issue is not about a few hundred unfortunate children, but a major form of employment in Zimbabwe, temporary and unrecognised as it may be.

More so, farm employment involves many hazards. Chemicals on recently sprayed crops can cause immediate and longer term poisoning. The General Agricultural and Plantation Workers Union (GAPWUZ) reported that children picking coffee with pesticide residues suffer eye problems. Children working in tea picking are scratched from the bushes and get ulcerations on their hands and legs (Sachikonye, 1989). Child labourers on farms are likely to suffer back problems from long hours of bending or standing, or from lifting heavy objects. They also face the risks of tractor and other vehicle accidents and of respiratory diseases, such as asthma, from working in dusty areas (such as in vegetable and tobacco sorting). When adults and older children are out doing piece work, small children take on household tasks like carrying heavy containers of water, collecting firewood and looking after even smaller children. Relying on children to do basic domestic tasks is reported by workers to result in a reduction in water collection, poor food preparation, fewer visits to clinics, and lack of adequate care for young children (Loewenson, 1989).

In addition, the extent of child labour in the informal sector is also unmeasured, and the nature and conditions of employment largely undocumented. Informal sector employment has not been regulated by laws governing labour relations, working conditions and occupational health, although the recently gazetted SI 68 1990 (Workers Compensation and Accident Prevention Scheme Notice) provides for safety committees and safety policies at *all* workplaces. The informal sector has low levels of capital investment, narrow profit margins,

and inadequate infrastructures (Moyo *et al*, 1984). There are often no defined workplaces or contracts of employment. Formal sector industries may contract out labour to domestic based workplaces, where the extent of involvement of child labour is unknown. Hence, little is known about the real picture of informal sector child labour. In one study of informal sector child labour (Sachikonye, 1989); children between 9 and 13 years were involved mainly in petty trading of vegetables, fruit, and groundnuts in markets. The children worked for 9 to 12 hours a day, and only a third attended school. Most of these children worked in unfavourable conditions, in temporary roadside stalls or the open air. Many complained of headaches, colds, and malaria. Some children sold wares in beer halls, where they were at risk violent behaviour and even sexual harassment.

Furthermore, Children have become increasingly involved as 'street' children in various small services (e.g. washing and looking after cars). A study was carried out in December 1988 in the greater Harare area, by the Zimbabwe Council for the Welfare of Children, to obtain information on the situation of these 'street children'. About 17% of the 200 interviewees were less than 6 years old. Older girls were selling cooked foods, collecting refuse for reuse and were alleged to be involved in prostitution. Boys, who made up 70% of the street children, guarded and washed motor vehicles, carried shopping goods, sold fruit, sweets and cigarettes, recovered scrap metal, and made scrap metal toys. Over half the children (60%) said they were on the streets because of poverty, another 20% were influenced by their parents (often unemployed), while abuse at home, peer influence, or self-motivation, and were given as causes.

To add on, children have also turned to prostitution as one form of informal sector employment. Newspaper reports have reported the recruitment of young men into brothels for the homosexual market, while young girls have been found in brothels in many parts of the city. Children in these activities are at risk of sexually transmitted diseases. The 1989 City Health Department Report noted that STD's occurred in children as young as 14 years. This also implies a risk much younger age group than at present. Many of these children do not take the earnings themselves. The sale of child bodies often benefits a brothel keeper, who appropriates most of the earnings and keeps the children in impoverished dependency.

Although the Children's Protection and Adoption Act makes these activities illegal, very few brothel keepers have been prosecuted.

Moreover, children are included in both formally and informally employed domestic labour, although more often the latter. The Zimbabwe Domestic and Allied Workers' Union (ZDA WU) has reported that child domestic workers work for long hours and are responsible for keeping the house clean, take care of small children, for cooking meals, and for laundry and other household tasks. Many receive wages of only Z\$25 to Z\$30 per month (Sachikonye.1989). Some of these child workers are employed by working class families who are minimum wage earners themselves, and do not have access to affordable childcare facilities. In other cases, poor relatives (often rural) put their children into richer relatives' households as unpaid labour in exchange for accommodation and food. This may be seen to have immediate benefits for the children, but the long hours, poor working conditions, and social impoverishment of these children make this a poor excuse for cheap labour.

2.2 Assessment of strategies adopted by child focused NGOs

Literature review shows that child focused NGOs are effective in promoting child rights as shown by decrease in child mortality, malnutrition, and child abuse. Food security has increased because of nutritional gardens for children and participation of children has increased. However, the literature also showed that to some extent the child focused NGOs have not been effective.

2.2.1 Provision of Food

NGOs are very effective in demonstrating that poverty, no matter how endemic, can be tackled by involving project beneficiaries in planning, implementing and sustaining projects (Chege, *ibid*). The Child Focused NGOs such as Care International in Zimbabwe and BICE initiated the supplementary feeding initiative in which porridge enriched with vitamins was distributed on a daily basis to all children under the age of five. Their presence is therefore greatly felt everywhere in Africa, from the provision of pipe borne water, to the running of

health centres. This program was implemented in partnership with community mothers, health workers, and pre-school teachers. As observed by Tollfree (2004), supplementary feeding remains one of the critical roles performed by NGOs to avert malnourishment and starvation of children. A notable challenge though, is that the programs are unable to reach all of the intended recipient children, but it managed to promote food security and reduce malnutrition.

2.2.2 Provision of Health

It emerged that another role played Child Focused NGOs in promoting children's rights was in the area of children's health. According to Mufinhi and Mugwenhi (2014), a typical example is the Young Child Survival and Development program (YSCD), which was aimed at accelerating the accomplishment of the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is important to note that YSCD program contributed to the increase and sustenance of vaccination coverage in the entire country. The Child Focused NGOs such as World Vision also contributes to the resuscitation of the health system by procuring and distributing a number of all essential medicines to various health facilities around the country. Additionally, the Child Focused NGOs partner with the World Health Organisation in countering a possible outbreak of measles, leading to the successful vaccination of many children. The selected NGO also launched the National Child Survival Strategy which was aimed at reducing the infant mortality rate by 25% in five years (Mufinhi and Mugwenhi 2014) Furthermore, in its quest to promote children's rights in Zimbabwe the selected NGO initiated the Water supply and Sanitation program in the late 1990s. According to Mufinhi and Mugwenhi (2014) through the program, safe drinking water was made available to approximately 40% of the rural population. Additionally, according to Mufinhi and Mugwenhi (2014) over 3 000 latrines were constructed which benefited approximately 200000 people. However, the program later failed in the early 2000s, because of the harsh economic and political environment in the country. Despite this setback, the Water Supply and Sanitation Program was later transformed into the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program that was aimed at contributing and ensuring access of clean and safe drinking water. The program

enabled at least 50% of the rural population and schoolchildren to live hygienically in their respective communities (Mufinhi and Mugwenhi 2014).

2.2.3 Provision of Social Protection

The selected NGO also played a significant role in the protection of children's rights through its flagship program known as the Child Protection Program (CPP) (Mufinhi and Mugwenhi 2014). The aims of the CPP are captured through the following excerpt from one of the participants;

“This program was aimed at increasing the proportion of children that are protected from violence, exploitation, and abuse. This was to be achieved through the continual support of the Victim-Friendly (VF) unit. The system benefited 4,000 child survivors (mostly girls) between April and September (UNICEF, 2010). In the program, 250 boys and 2,600 girls received specialised support through eight dedicated hospital-based VF Clinics and fourteen VF Courts were partially established through the support of the SC to assure the use of child-specific legal procedures for children in contact with the law (UNICEF, 2010). Also, the police including health and education professionals were trained in child-friendly techniques to work with child survivors of sexual abuse.”

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, the selected NGO also worked conjunction with UNICEF and managed to train 9,000 community members on gender-based violence (Mufinhi and Mugwenhi 2014). This was after an analysis of child sexual abuse data, which revealed that the majority of survivors are adolescent girls, with a mean age of approximately 11 years. Almost three-quarters of survivors know their perpetrators but only a few cases reach the court system (Childline Report, 2010). It can be argued that many survivors of sexual abuse have either been neglected or abandoned by their families, emphasising the need for improved services to assure girl's' right to protection linked to strategic justice and social protection sector interventions in 2011 and 2012. Reported cases of violence, exploitation, and abuse against women and children remain very low, highlighting weaknesses in available justice and welfare systems of the country that responds effectively in addressing abuses (Mufinhi and Mugwenhi, 2014)

2.2.4 Provision of Education

In their crusade to promote the rights of children in Zimbabwe, the selected NGOs embarked on sustained education initiatives through a program known as the Basic Education and Gender Equality (BEGE) program (Mufinhi & Mugwenhi, 2014). The following excerpt from the program director at the selected NGO captures the goals of the BEGE initiative:

“We initiated the BEGE program in order to promote the right to education and the purpose of this program component was aimed to contribute to the increase net primary and secondary attendance ratios by 10%, increase completion rates in primary and secondary school by 10%, incorporate life and survival skills in primary and secondary education and improve quality and relevance of primary and secondary education in order to increase the grade 7 pass rate by 25%” (Program Director).

BEGE was implemented under the ambit of the Education Coordination Group, which consisted of all key education partners and was chaired by the government. Additionally, in its bid to provide education, the selected NGO established the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) in the year 2000. The program managed to support over 514,000 children, against a target of 560,000 orphans and underprivileged children by paying their school fees. Furthermore, according to Mufinhi and Mugwenhi (2014) the selected NGO procured and distributed above 13 million teaching and learning materials in core learning subjects and stationary storage facilities to 2.7 million children in all 5,600 Zimbabwean primary schools and 2,300 secondary schools. Ten Early Childhood Development model centres were equipped with materials and 12,000 children at 25 primary schools benefited from construction of new classrooms and improved water and gender-appropriate sanitation facilities (Mugweni and Mafinhi, 2014)

Child focused NGOs and those whose activities impact on children are found throughout the country. It is also important to note that they are found in almost all sectors and are carrying out programmes and activities ranging from direct service to children such as withdrawal from the streets and rescue and rehabilitation exercises, direct educational support for children in schools, direct support in Medicare. In addition, child focused NGOs are also involved in HIV/AIDS interventions, family empowerment programmes, adolescent sexual

and reproductive health matters, production, and dissemination of child rights communication materials. NGOs are involved in media write-ups, child participation activities through school clubs and other such child groupings, support for children with disability, orphans and other vulnerable children, research and training, counselling, monitoring and reporting on International conventions and advocacy and public education and awareness programmes (http://cepa.org.gh/research_papers/NGO71).

2.2.5 Health services and improved child survival

A further important consideration is the extent to which relatively low child mortality might be causally linked with coverage of reproductive and child health services. At the beginning of the 1990s, a review of studies of the effectiveness of child focused NGOs PHC activities in Bangladesh concluded that improvements in child survival could be achieved through relatively simple and cost-effective health interventions (Henry et al. 1990). Many of these have been promoted by BPHC, including oral rehydration therapy (ORT), breastfeeding, and immunization, particularly against measles and tetanus toxoid. However, there is a multi-causal nexus of determinants of child survival, including both preventive and curative health services, demographic, socioeconomic and educational factors (Mosley and Chen 1984).

Several studies in Bangladesh have identified factors associated with infant and child mortality. Proximate determinants such as low birth weight, prematurity, ARI, diarrhoeal diseases, and malnutrition are linked with broader social and economic conditions that can affect health status independently of access to health services (Bhuiya et al. 1989; Koenig et al. 1991). Socio-economic status, current working status, years of schooling of both mothers and fathers, birth order, survival of the previous child and mother's age have been found to be significantly associated with child survival (Bhuiya and Streatfield 1992; Majumder and Islam 1993; Majumder et al. 1997). The different behavioural pathways through which educational and socio-economic factors can affect child survival include greater protection against infection, improved hygiene, reduced susceptibility to infection, reduced risk of accidents through better supervision, better nutrition, immunization and enhanced recovery through health care (Mosley and Chen 1984; Cleland and van Ginneken 1988). A study of the introduction of home and clinic-based MCH services in Matlab found that years of schooling

of mothers had more effect on child survival where the more intensive services were available, and female community health workers conducting home visits empowered women to seek services (Muhuri 1995).

It is important to note that the household visits by child focused NGOs FHV's play an important part in both curative and preventive child health services in the BPHC areas. The case management strategies used by BPHC NGOs include ORT and a simple diagnostic algorithm for ARI, both of which have been found to be effective in reducing child mortality in other countries (Mulholland et al. 1992). As the estimates of post-neonatal and child (1–4 years) mortality have levelled off, it might be supposed that mortality has been reduced as far as possible with the existing services. However, a review of verbal autopsies for January–March 2003 showed that about half of the 99 deaths among children aged 1–4 years were attributed to ARI (30.3%) and diarrhoeal disease (21.2%), and many of these might have been preventable (Mercer 2004). It will be important to ascertain in future whether deaths attributed to these diseases are among children who have not received treatment. Further reduction in child mortality could also come through prevention of accidents, including drowning, which is now the biggest cause of death among children aged 1–4 years in Matlab (Ahmed MK et al. 1999; ICDDR, B 2002).

2.2.6 Poverty, equity, and improved child survival

Although NGO health services and high coverage are likely to have played a significantly part in the lower infant and child mortality in BPHC areas, the impact may have been enhanced by NGO development activities (Mercer 2004). Women participating in rural credit programmes in Bangladesh have benefited from increased physical mobility, economic security, and freedom to seek services independently (Schuler and Hashemi 1994). Participation is associated with increased demand for health care and with seeking curative care for a sick child (Nanda 1999; Levin et al. 2001). Implementation of a woman-focused development programme in Matlab resulted in a substantial reduction in child mortality (Bhuiya and Chowdhury 2002). Even with relatively small NGO credit programmes, participation is associated with higher immunization coverage and lower child (0–4 years) mortality (Amin and Li 1997). On this evidence, the revolving loan funds and income-

generating activities for poor women implemented by most of the BPHC NGOs could have contributed to high service coverage and lower infant and child mortality.

The estimates of infant and child mortality (based on ratios of deaths to live births) for the BPHC areas are now relatively low for a low-income country (UNDP 2002). The level of infant mortality and service coverage will be verified through an independent survey on a random sample of households conducted in all BPHC areas in 2003. The survey will also verify a further important finding from the MIS data – that women and children from the poorest households now have service coverage almost as high as the others, and that infant and child mortality have converged. The MIS data indicate that the slight decline in post-neonatal and child (1–4 years) mortality among the poorest from 1999–2002 brought them to almost the same level of child survival as other children (Mecer 1995). The rapid decline in neonatal mortality in the BPHC areas from 1999–2002 occurred between both socio-economic groups, but was more rapid among the poorest. According to Mecer (1995) although the areas was 1.20 for neonatal mortality, 1.45 for post-neonatal mortality, and 1.46 for child (1–4 years) mortality in 2000, these differentials had been virtually eliminated by 2002.

According to Ezeoha (2007), the major criticism is that their huge roles in Africa have failed to significantly improve the lots of Africans. Despite their activities in the continent, Africa still posts a disheartening picture of economic stagnation, poverty, and underdevelopment. Thus, the role of NGOs in Africa is being viewed with suspicion and has been likened to that of early missionaries to Africa who, it was claimed, were used as instruments of subjugation by colonial masters. The Women's Association, MaendeloYaWanawake (MYWO), and the Christian Council of Kenya (CCK), have been cited as examples of colonial NGOs involved in government funded schemes designed to subvert the Mau Mau resistance in Kenya (Manji and O'Coill, *ibid*) The real question therefore borders on whose interest the NGOs serve beyond this 'useful' period (BBC News, 2004). Is it government political interest, community social interests, donor agencies' interests, owner's' interest, profit, or financing interests?

2.3 Challenges faced by child focused NGOs

2.3.1 Funding challenge

The availability of funding is critical to service delivery of the NGOs while the unavailability of funds plays a debilitating role in the effective running of these institutions (Agere, 2014). Since most or all the NGOs operate on a non-profit basis and depending on donations, it therefore makes their survival unpredictable especially if market fluctuations occur and recessions descend upon global economies (Agere, 2014). While funding is known to challenge these NGOs, there are questions that many minds cannot escape asking such as, whether some of these NGOs in South Africa as in many other African countries such as Kenya are driven by the goals and vision they purport to follow. Alternatively, are they vehicles of directors to milk them at the expense of meeting their goals and expectations (Agere, 2014)?

In addition, the Child Focused NGOs fraternity has seriously been affected by the recent global economic recession. This is because most donors stopped to donate when their financial houses went into a state of economic malaise (Davis, 2013). Gravely, the economic meltdown has not spared some South African NGOs that almost went on their economic knees due to the dearth of funding (Kang'ethe and Manomano 2014). The effects have been very worse especially among the Child Focused NGOs specializing in the domain of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention. With South Africa having more people suffering from HIV/AIDS, the unfortunate cut on funding due to the financial crisis saw organizations like Treatment Action Group (TAC) closing down six of its provincial offices (Kang'ethe and Manomano 2014). Regrettably, this also resulted in some clinics offering ARV treatment to stop enrolling patients on the ARV treatment programme due to severe ARV shortages at the clinics (Hecker, 2009).

Gravely also, other organizations such as IDASA in Cape Town actually closed down their offices (Davis, 2013). In other countries such as Botswana, the government threatened to withdraw all its funding for HIV/AIDS programmes making the work for NGOs more laborious and burdensome given the withdrawal. This is because the government funding makes up to 80% of the funding for these programmes (Kang'ethe and Manomano 2014). In

fact, most NGOs such as Botswana Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (BONEPWA) in Botswana almost went to a closure, leaving the office to be run by only the director and the deputy director and all the workers getting retrenched (Kang'ethe and Manomano 2014). Furthermore, it is important to note that Swaziland known to be having the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS saw its NGOs suffering as donors reduced funding because of the global financial crisis. In countries such as Uganda and Tanzania, the survival of NGOs has been seriously threatened and those that have weathered the storm have been operating on a shoelace budget (Hecker, 2009).

Unpublished evidence indicates that agencies such as FAMSA in East London forced their employees to work on shifts and seek other income generating options and modalities to sustain their livelihoods because of little funding they were receiving in 2012 (Kang'ethe and Manomano 2014). Whereas worrying reports indicate that the South African government has promised to support the NGOs because of the sterling role they do in supporting government service delivery, but on the ground, this is not the case (Kang'ethe S and Manomano T 2014). Equally, other donor bodies such as Lottery are accused of failing to foster a good working relationship with the NGOs (Barnard, 2012).

2.3.2 NGO-State relations

According to Hofisi and Hofisi (2013) generally, dictatorships or single party states are often hostile to NGOs. The political history of Ethiopia also illustrates that NGOs under dictatorships experience a multiplicity of operational hurdles. When under Mengistu Haile Mariam's military regime, NGOs in Ethiopia were subjected to extreme state control of the government. They were not allowed to work in conflict areas (Hofisi and Hofisi 2013). In addition to that, most projects were supposed to be registered with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and then cleared by the relevant ministry (Hofisi and Hofisi, 2013). Their relationship was characterised by state repression and reticence (Hofisi and Hofisi, 2013). Since the Ethiopian government denied NGOs an opportunity to work with the people, the country was denied aid by donors on the account of human rights abuses. Aid donors preferred to fund NGOs to provide relief services only (Campbell, 1996). However, state repression is not a phenomenon confined to the African continent, similar circumstances

occurred when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed emergency rule in India. A number of NGO officials, political leaders, and political activists were imprisoned. As a follow up, information about NGOs with foreign ties was demanded and in 1976, the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) was passed. The passing of the Act was supported by the argument that there was need to control foreign intervention that could destabilise the country (Campbell, 1996).

According to Mwale (1995) in other instances, relations between the NGOs and the state can be plagued by lack of commitment from the side of the government. Cannon (2000) concurs with this point by giving an example of Uganda where NGOs assumed a leading role in providing services to the people while the government withdrew its own services. The staff of a Ugandan NGO called The Aids Support Organisation (TASO) expressed displeasure when they were told that “we the ACP are the brains and you TASO are our arms” by an official of the Aids Control Programme, a government organisation (Mwale, 1995). A relationship like this does not boost morale for the NGO staff, neither does it promote development. Gibbs et al (1999) argues that at times NGOs help the state to put services within the reach of all through augmenting the initiatives of the state.

Mwale (1995) argues that explication of underlying values in the relationship between NGOs and states are necessary because they influence the relationship. This analysis may be approached on at least two levels; at the upper level, the analytic focus would be on policy in the general sense of the word. The idea here is not to dwell so much on the dimensions of choice in the relationship but rather how these values influence the design of relationship, e.g. the issues of power in decision-making, design, and content of programmes and adequacy. At a lower level, the analysis would then specifically deal with value preferences. At this level, more consideration of value is made (Gilbert & Specht; 1974). For example; the values of self-determination, interdependence, freedom of choice, dignity, and local autonomy may influence the design of developmental programmes, design of service delivery, finance arrangements, the criteria of cost-effectiveness and self-effectiveness. States in Africa may hold values that may be different from the NGOs.

In terms of relationship between state and NGO, ideology therefore carries critical importance in that variance in the belief systems may create difficulties for cooperation (Mwale 1995). This is especially so in Africa with diversity of ideologies. Ideology does not possess a clear and settled meaning acceptable to all users. Observers of this concept including Nove (1980) tend to define ideology as a system of underlying beliefs, a set of basic principles about human conduct, and the organisation of society. However, ideology is used here to mean a body of ideas that reflect the beliefs of a nation, political system, and class (Chambers, 1986). As Corbelt (1965) notes, to accept a certain ideology is to be committed to a way of life. Therefore, a divergence in ideology creates a conflict of ideas with far-reaching implications and consequences for social development. Competing ideologies create conflict of ideas in terms of roles, responsibilities and interventions (Hatch, 1980) and especially if conflict of ideas is about the status quo; or attacks the existing order (Baradat, 1984), or a view of the future. According to Mwale (1995) since independence up to the end of the Second Republic (1964-1991), Zambia employed the ideology of Humanism, which was socialist in outlook and orientation. This ideology created difficulties for capitalist-oriented NGOs to operate in Zambia (Mwale 1995). Their value orientation, basic principles of life and belief systems created conflict and incongruence in the perception of reality. For example, the definition of what constitutes productive and unproductive activity could be a matter of ideological orientation. Many NGOs were opposed to various types of subsidies, which the state deemed essential for social development to succeed. It can be understood, why the state and NGOs may experience variance in ideology, which may adversely affect social development (Mwale 1995). NGOs and the state may not be agreeable about the approach due to ideological differences.

2.3.3 Corruption and embezzlement of funds

Corruption and its ramifications manifesting itself in embezzlement of organizational funds, paying ghost workers, misuse of organizational infrastructure such as vehicles for one's personal gain etc. is a cankerworm that seriously continue to undermine the productivity of organizations, notwithstanding NGOs (Agere, 2014; Coetzer, 2013). The NGO fraternity in

African countries are echoing and mimicking the state of corruption happening within the leadership circles of their countries. In many NGOs, reports have indicated that those entrusted with funds for the institutions misuse them for personal benefit and in some instances corruptly access funding (The Herald, 2014: Agere, 2014) . It is heart breaking that all these filthy actions would be at the expense of the targeted beneficiaries who are in most cases needy and vulnerable (Kang’ethe and Manomano, 2014). To add on the fact that most directors of the Child Focused NGOs could be connected to those in power is an indicator that they may not fear the wrath of the law. In the same vein, some NGOs are platforms for political expediency, perhaps instituted to make some individuals popular in readiness to vie for either a civic or a parliamentary post (Kang’ethe and Manomano 2014). Such personalities may be closely related to high-ranking government officials. The goal of such NGOs may not intrinsically be there to address social development concerns. Such NGOs may suffer the process of politicisation of NGOs (Kang’ethe and Manomano 2014). In addition, such NGOs may also not be following legal government channels such as filing any annual returns (Erasmus, 2012).

2.3.4 Organisational challenges

One of the most mentioned organisational challenges of child focused NGOs were that of the decision-making processes. Tensions often occurred between staff and senior managers because of the staff expectations that they would be equal partners in the decision-making process (Mukasa, 2006). Another common problem was to do with the governance of the organizations and the relations between board members and staff. These stemmed largely from the board's' inability or unwillingness to carry out their responsibilities of governing the organizations. Board members often lacked the time or the expertise to be able to carry out these responsibilities effectively. As a result, senior staffs were often left to make policy decisions with little or no support from board members (Mukasa, 2006). Governance and decision-making; the governance picture of many NGOs is quite complex. Self-perpetuating, largely self-appointing boards of directors govern most non-profits. “Though trustees are not elected by society at large, their essential purpose is to hold an organization in trust for the benefit of society, as specified in its papers of incorporation and grants of tax exemption” (Lewis, 2005) . Other problem is about staff; such as; recruitment, assignment and layoff as

well as human resources development and administration and finally everyday management of staff (Vilain, 2006). NGOs were found to be weak at staff career development. Often organizations lacked a career structure in which staff could develop. In addition, they were not good at budgeting for staff training. In situations where the organizations were expanding rapidly, it created problems for many who were unable to keep up with the demands of their work. Not all people working for non-governmental organizations are volunteers. Paid staff members typically receive lower pay than in the commercial private sector. Their members usually are not paid in any way and only invest little of their leisure in order to fulfil their duties. Sometimes they only have little organizational and professional skills (Mukasa, 2006). The poor quality of training or lack of importance attached to training NGO workers has been discussed elsewhere (Ahmad, 2002) Mission, effectiveness, and accountability; for NGOs to thrive, it must fulfil a mission that is valued by the community, staff, board, and founders. NGOs must create value within operational and environmental constraints that are at once more complex than those faced by corporations and more opaque than those confronted by government (Lewis, 2005).

2.3.5 Lack of cooperation from the government

The lack of cooperation from the government poses a serious detriment to the efficiency of NGOs in service delivery (Kang'ethe, 2010). In many countries especially where democratic dispensation has not taken roots, the governments have been viewing NGOs as sympathizers of the opposition politicians and therefore using bureaucracy and administrative forces to harass them (African Commission on People's and Human Rights, 2009). Such scenarios are common in countries such as Zimbabwe and Kenya. In Zimbabwe, for instance, NGOs not affiliated or supporting the ruling party have had challenges of operating freely without various forms of political or administrative harassment ((Kang'ethe and Manomano, 2014).

Lack of government goodwill for the Child focused NGOs resulting to poor collaboration between the government and the NGOs has impeded NGO fraternity's effectiveness and efficiency, sometimes making the NGOs fail to achieve their set goals and objectives. For

example, agencies such as the Institute of Youth Development South Africa (IYDSA) operating in East London, though doing a sterling role of training primary health care facilities' nurses has not been able to enjoy adequate government support and recognition. Due to its survival amid poor collaboration with the government in various ways, it is being forced to shift some of its operational goal posts to do things that the government is supposed to do (Kang'ethe & Manomano, 2014).

Lack of government respect for the Child Focused NGOs has made their working environment uncondusive. To this end, some senior government officials are on record showing contempt to the working of the NGOs through making sentiments that further sour the NGO-government relationship. For instance some sentiments made by Blade Nzimande, the Minister of Higher Education in April 2012, in an opinion article at the ANC website ... some NGOs are part of an ideological third force... had an immense and grave spate of demonization and discouragement among the NGO fraternity (IOLNEWS, 2012). This indicates that although the NGOs and the government are serving the same people and their goals are supposed to meet at a certain point, the environment that the government is creating is undermining and wreaking the NGO-government synergy to serve citizenry (Kang'ethe & Manomano, 2014).

2.3.6 Inadequate competence levels within NGO fraternity

In any occupational setting, the level of skills and training heralds competence levels as well as possible effectiveness and efficiency of the organization (UNAIDS, 2001; Kang'ethe, 2014b). It is sad to learn that most Child focused NGOs struggle to obtain skilled labour force such as social workers. This is probably because they do not afford a better remuneration as government or other private agencies. Therefore, the social workers in South Africa who are ready to work in the NGO fraternity usually remain there as a stepping-stone to increase their experience that will make them employable by the government or any other private agency (Agere, 2014). Therefore, the attrition rate of the social workers from the NGO fraternity is usually high and a big blow to the NGO domain. However, this notwithstanding, South Africa suffers shortage of the social workers generally. Even the Department of Labour alludes that the country has a severe shortage of social workers (Department of Labour, 2008)

making the survival of NGOs difficult. The absence of a social worker or social workers in the organization is a big blow because it is also difficult to prove the need for funding from any establishment, whether donors or government (Kang'ethe & Manomano, 2014) . Amidst poor funding, NGOs can barely attract stable and long serving skilled labour force because employees end up leaving in search of better and greener pastures (Kang'ethe & Manomano, 2014). To this end, government reports indicate that 66, 329 social workers were needed to implement the Children's Act, while 743 social workers were needed to implement the Older Persons Act and 1426 social workers for the Prevention and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act (Waters, 2013).

According to Mugwenhi and Mafinhi (2014), the progress made in the promotion of children's rights was not made without severe obstacles. Major hurdles have been the unreliable energy supply (both electricity and fuel) and challenges in obtaining Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) supplies locally since the organisation has to import the resources needed for the program Mugwenhi and Mafinhi (2014). The critical skills shortage of experienced social workers in the country hindered national efforts to reach vulnerable children in the whole provinces and hampered the hampered the full realization of protection program. The following excerpt from one of the respondents captures this issue:

“The numbers of social workers in the country has dwindled due to the brain drain that the country continues to face. This is affecting service delivery since only a handful of social services personnel are expected to save the whole entire nation.”

The polarised political and media environment, limited financial and human resources capacity of government that has existed in Zimbabwe over the past decade has presented an avalanche of operational problems to the selected NGO. Another participant had this to say:

“Most donors were unwilling to channel their funding through the government system as required the Non-Governmental Organisations Bill because of the possible misappropriation of funds by the cash-strapped government.”

Not to be left out are impediments related to barbaric legislations such as the NGO Act and the Private Organisation Act, which were initiated to suppress the activities of Child Focused

NGOs. It is important to note that the laws gave the government absolute authority to approve and disapprove any NGO's year span plans in an arbitrary manner. NGOs were required to register with government first before launching any humanitarian operations (Mugwenhi and Mafinhi, 2014). More so, government was also vested with the power to indiscriminately cancel the operational licence for any Child Focused NGOs. Resultantly, the effectiveness of the selected NGO was slowed down on several occasions due to late response by the state, which may be attributed to bureaucracy and red tape red tape in the government system Mugwenhi and Mafinhi (2014). Above all, these constraints resulted in recurring delays in implementing the launch of strategic plans by the selected NGO and generally added complexity to the development environment.

According to Hofisi and Hofisi (2013) because of lack of adequate funding, NGOs indicated that they do not have transport they need to raise awareness in remote areas. In addition, when travelling, their volunteers use their stipends to visit patients. The money that these volunteers get is often distributed among organisation members in order of educational qualifications (Hofisi and Hofisi, 2013). This has caused conflicts among NGO members given that they do the same work. Besides conflicts, there has been high volunteer turnover; with others, leaving for better opportunities (Hofisi and Hofisi, 2013). It can be noted that volunteers are not offering themselves in the true spirit of helping but seeking opportunities. This will cost a lot of money for the Child Focused NGOs because they will have to recruit frequently. However, this shows that volunteers need motivation given that they are an overworked people. According to Hofisi and Hofisi (2013), the Raphael Centre is also facing the prospect of closure if its financial situation does not improve by November 2012. Not only does this situation haunt the Eastern Cape Province. In the Western Cape, the Rape Crisis is pestered by the prospect of closure. These organisations had already cut down some activities in the face of the crisis.

According to http://www.cepa.org.gh/research_papers/NGO71 the challenges facing child focused NGOs in Ghana revolve around funding, competition, non- professionalism, accountability issues, donor driven initiatives, negative socio-cultural practices against children, wrong attitudes, ill parenting, ineffective implementation of laws and policies, weak systems and structures to push children's issues, decentralised systems very weak capacity,

etc . According to [http://www.cepa.org.gh/research papers/NGO71](http://www.cepa.org.gh/research_papers/NGO71) the main challenge is the inadequate institutional mechanisms for their enforcement and implementation. This is attributed to weak capacities within government in terms of financial, infrastructural and in some cases human resources ([http://www.cepa.org.gh/research papers/NGO71](http://www.cepa.org.gh/research_papers/NGO71)).It is crucial to note that without committing the necessary resources and time to strengthening the capacity of these institutions, child rights protection will continue to be an elusive ideal.

The NGO Community for children's issues observe that institutions of State relevant to the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children face serious resource and capacity challenges ([http://www.cepa.org.gh/research papers/NGO71](http://www.cepa.org.gh/research_papers/NGO71)). The environment for child work is therefore constrained by these inadequacies, which compound issues on the ground for children. NGOs are challenged by entrenched socio-cultural practices and beliefs nationwide that tend to defy the laws of the land with much impunity ([http://www.cepa.org.gh/research papers/NGO71](http://www.cepa.org.gh/research_papers/NGO71)). These practices adversely affect attitudes towards children and ultimately manifest in socialisation processes that relegate children's concerns in the background at all levels, a trend that work against prioritisation in favour of children and hence low investments in children's concerns nation-wide ([http://www.cepa.org.gh/research papers/NGO71](http://www.cepa.org.gh/research_papers/NGO71)).

2.4 Theoretical Framework

In this study, the researcher used the three dominant theories that attempt to account for social development of children that are Socio-Cultural Theory, the Liberal Theory, and the Right Based Theory. The Socio-Cultural Theory postulates that children cannot develop voice and identity unless the space, support, and opportunities are available for them to develop their own views (Smith, 2002). The theory also states that social interaction and participation leads to the internalisation of the tools for thinking and enhancing the competence of children. It is also important to note that the theory calls for children to participate in matters affecting them, in order to develop relevant solutions to their problems. The Liberal Theory advances the notion that children should have all the rights that adults

presently have; it also claims that children are not disqualified from having rights by virtue of their lack of capacity that adults do have (Cohen, 1980). The theory also postulates that the denial of children's rights is one of the significant elements in a culture that serves artificially to maintain children in their childlike state of dependence, vulnerability, and immaturity. The Right Based Theory mandates state members to protect and promote children's rights through promoting principles such as non-discrimination, participation, survival and development, protection and promoting the best interest of the child (Hodges, 2001).

2.5 Knowledge gap

Much study has been done concerning what is being done by child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children. The researcher whilst doing her study noted that much emphasis has been given on what NGOs are doing .The researcher feels out that the effectiveness of these NGOs has been given little attention. Although there are child focused NGOs in countries such as Zimbabwe and South Africa there are still so many cases of child sexual abuse. In recent years, there has been an increase in sexual abuse of the boy child. The researcher feels out that a little research has been done considering the reasons why despite the existence of child focused NGOs there are still cases of violation of children's rights especially in developing countries.

The researcher also noted that there is a cultural gap on literature and studies used to govern the management of child focused NGOs in Zimbabwe. Most policies being used are based on exotic studies done in Europe, Asia and other regions that have no link with our own cultural background and way of life hence the need for local research. It can be noted that a minimum consideration has been given to the importance of the culture of the children. For example in Zimbabwe, we have a culture that allows parents to discipline their children but some foreign child focused NGOs are against this. So there is clash of culture as noted by Mpfu (2012).This can be noted through sex education to the children of school going age. This reflects on the inappropriateness of the mentor to subject, situation, and audience.

The researcher also noted that there is some gap on the sustainability issues. It can be noted that much emphasis has been given on the projects undertaken by child focused NGOs in

promoting the rights of children. Little attention has been given on how sustainable are the operations of the child focused NGOs. In addition, the participation framework of the child focused NGOs has not been given much attention.

In conclusion, the study seeks to explore the effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children. The research wants to find out why despite the existence of child focused NGOs there are still cases of child abuse, and by creating local based research findings meant to benefit the public of Zimbabwe and the world at large.

2.6 Conclusion

The chapter generally covered the research findings of other scholars and how it does appreciate and blend with the study being undertaken. The chapter covered the reasons behind operations of child focused on a global and regional note. It also covered the assessment of strategies adopted by child-focused NGOs and the challenges they are facing in promoting the rights of children. The chapter also covered theoretical framework and the knowledge gap. The literature review highlighted above by the researcher show that this study will only serve as a compliment to the already done areas.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In deciding how to collect information one requires for research, the initial question is not “Which Methodology” but rather “What do I need to know and why and then “what is the best way to collect information (Bell, 1993). The next question will then be “When I have this information, what shall I do with it (Bell, 1993). This chapter presents an overview of the research methodology, in terms of the research design, research instruments, population, sampling methods, and data collection procedures. It clearly shows how the research objectives and questions are to be addressed.

3.1 Nature of study

In order to assess the effectiveness of Child Focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children within the area under study, a need arose to conduct an empirical study. The above-mentioned study will therefore adopt the mixed method in order to address quantitative and qualitative research problems. Qualitative research emphasizes the use of words rather than numbers as compared to the quantitative research style. Lichtman (2006) points out that a qualitative research is also important in unearthing and understanding the social interactions in a community. He also elaborates on how it identifies patterns, features, and themes. Such features of qualitative research justify its applicability in undertaking the case study in question. Creswell (1998) is of the view that qualitative research provides a rich source of information leading to theories, patterns and or policies that help to explain and inform the phenomenon under study. It also investigates the why, and how of decision making not just what, where and when. He asserts that qualitative research is selected when insight discovery and interpretation are more appropriate to the study than testing of hypothesis it gives enough room to be engaged in the field of respondents’ thereby giving access to much hidden values. Saunders (2003) is of the view that quantitative research involves formal, objective information about the world, with mathematical quantification; it can be used to describe test relationships and to examine cause and effect relationships.

3.2 Target population

In this research study, the target population that was considered during the study comprises all child-focused NGOs operating in the area (Murerezi), local leaders, children, and parents. The researcher ascertained that all the citizens under study are residents in the chosen ward or were workers for the child-focused NGOs operating in Murerezi.

3.3 Sampling procedure

Charles (1998) defines a sample as a smaller group of individuals selected from the population. Sampling is the process of selecting units for examples people, organizations from a population of interest so that by studying the sample we may fairly generalize our results back to the population from which they were chosen. Purposive sampling was used in this research to select research participants from child focused NGOs staff and from local leaders. The researcher adopted purposive sampling because it focuses on particular characteristics of a population that are of interest, which will best enable respondents to answer the research questions.

In Murerezi ward, the researcher also used stratified random sampling in selecting respondents. With this type of sampling, the respondents were divided into mutually exclusive groups such as age groups and sex, and random samples are drawn from each group .Each group consisted of roughly 16 people and random samples of about 5 people were drawn from each group

During this research, the population was divided into groups of women, children, and men. The researcher involved the children both girls and boys so that she finds out if the NGOs are catering for both the needs of the girl and boy child. The children shed more light on what Child Focused NGOs are doing for them. The researcher also involved the mothers, since they are the primary caregivers they provide information on the activities being done by the Child Focused NGOs to promote the rights of children. They are the ones who witness the

change on the livelihoods of children. Men were also involved so that the findings are balanced because they also have parental responsibility.

3.4 Sample size

Coolican (2004) described a sample as a representative or part of the population for determining parameters or characteristics of the whole population. The researcher worked with 14% of the population of Muhlambi village, which consist of 345 people as per World Vision survey carried out in April 2014. The respondents were 48, and since stratified random sampling was used, the 48 people were divided into amongst the three-targeted groups of women or mothers, children and males or fathers. Each group consisted of roughly 16 people and random samples of about five people were drawn from each group. The researcher chose Muhlambi village because this is where the activities of these Child Focused NGOs are concentrated.

3.5 Sources of data

3.5.1 Secondary data

Secondary data is information that already exists somewhere, having been collected for another purpose (Kotler, 2002). The researcher used secondary data because it is cheap, easily accessible and gave a clear understanding of the problem before going to the field to gather primary data. Journals, company magazines and newsletters, library textbooks were the sources of secondary data. Secondary data helped the researcher to do a valid comparison of the past and present, hence drawing valid research objectives.

3.5.2 Primary data

Shao (1999) defines primary data as the original data gathered to satisfy the purpose of the current study. The researcher decided to use primary data because of its originality as it is based on first-hand information and it gives a clear picture on the contribution of child

focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children. Considering the fact that its data collected for the problem at hand it offered greatest accuracy, hence high probability of resulting in better recommendations and decision-making. Primary data information was obtained from community stakeholders, local leaders and child focused NGOs using questionnaires, interviews, observations, and a focus group discussion.

3.6 Data collection instruments

Face to face, interviews were used to collect much of the needed primary data from child focused NGOs staff, local leaders while questionnaires were administered to the parents and a focus group discussion with the children.

3.6.1 Face to face interviews

Cooper et al (2003) indicated that, “interviews can be used as personalized way to collect data through listening, reading, smelling, and touching.” It is important to note that the researcher used face-to-face interviews in order to get immediate feedback and at the same time minimizing the risk of misunderstanding since clarifications were made right away. Furthermore, interviews also allowed the researcher room for probes and prompts during interview sessions and non-verbal language helped the researcher to conclude answers, which is a function absent in questionnaires to note.

3.6.2 Questionnaires

According to Foddy (1994) a questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a series of questions and other prompts for gathering information from respondents. The responses are gathered in a standardized way, so questionnaires are more objective, certainly more so than interviews. Generally, it is relatively quick to collect information using a questionnaire. However, in some situations they can take a long time not only to design but also to apply and analyses. The researcher used questionnaires because of the size of the sample households as interviewing them all one by one could have been cumbersome and they

placed less emphasis for immediate responses compared to interviews thus allowing the respondent to have more time to analyze the questions and answer in a steadfast mood. The research used both open and closed ended questions to extract information to allow respondents to air personal views and specifically respond to asked questions respectively thus higher probability of attaining correct and relevant information. . Open-ended questions ask the respondent to formulate his or her own answer, whereas a closed-ended question has the respondent pick an answer from a given number of options (Gillham; 2008). Above all, through questionnaires, only relevant questions were asked and relevant answers were obtained.

3.6.3 Observation

Marshall and Rossman (1989) define observation as "the systematic description of events, behaviours, and artefacts in the social setting chosen for study." It can be noted that observations enabled the researcher to describe existing situations complementary to the results recorded from the interviews and questionnaires distributed. It provided opportunities for viewing or participating in unscheduled events. The researcher would not want to conclude about the contribution made by the child focused NGOs staff in promoting the rights of children in Murerezi ward without observing the tangible contributions in terms of infrastructure development and projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of children. The researcher observed some of the developmental projects done by child focused NGOs.

3.6.4 Focus group discussions.

The researcher had focus group discussions. One with primary children and the other with secondary children. The researcher acted as the chairperson to insure that all issues were discussed. The method was useful in knowing the effectiveness of Child Focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children in Murerezi ward.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

The researcher urged respondents to participate on a voluntary basis, that is, participants freely offered the data. If they had reservations, they were kindly excused. Respect for the participants was cultivated in the research.

To this effect, the following guidelines were proposed and adhered to during data collection:

1. No-one would be coerced into participating in the study against their will.
2. No financial disbursements would be promised and/or made to the participants.
3. The rights and interests of all participants would be protected and ensured.
4. Confidentiality of all information gathered from the participants would be maintained.

3.8 Data collection Procedure and administration

Data collection procedure entails how primary and secondary data is collected (Kotler, 1997). In light of the purposive sampling, which was adopted as sampling technique, the researcher made prior appointments to child focused NGOs staff and local leaders to book appointments to seek permission and giving them ample time to prepare. This is an exercise, which was conducted in a full week with each interview session allocated fifteen minutes at most. For questionnaires distribution, the researcher used the drop and pick method to the randomly selected households in the ward and an allowance of one day was given. In an effort of gathering secondary data, the researcher asked for permission to use company reports, newsletters, and projects files. The researcher also made use of different textbooks from the library and various journals and research papers from the internet.

3.9 Validity and Reliability of Research Findings

“Reliability and validity is the process of assessing the authority and reputation of the source” (Dochartaigh, 2002). This is a major researcher’s concern because it determines the confidence the researcher and managers can have in the outcomes of the study. In

safeguarding data validity and reliability the researcher used pilot survey to check for questionnaire ambiguity so as to eliminate mistakes and finally to remove confusing words or jargon. In addition to the pilot survey, the researcher also used more than one research method and instruments to complement the weakness of one method with the strength of another method and the use of a considerably large sample cushioned the risk of capturing false data.

3.10 Conclusion

In conclusion, chapter 3 generally covered on research methods used, sample size, data collection instruments, data collection procedure and administration, validity and reliability of research findings and sampling techniques. The chapter also highlighted in what way the research respected ethical considerations.

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents and analyses data that was collected through primary and secondary sources. This chapter is aimed at answering the research questions as well as fulfilling the

objectives of the research. Thus, it shall present the findings using the descriptive and explorative design. Discussion of findings are linked to the literature review and responses obtained from the field research. The researcher collected primary data using questionnaires, field observation, focus group discussions, and personal interviews whilst secondary data was collected from intensive content analysis ranging from annual reports, journals, newspapers, and textbooks. The data was coded and analyzed manually with tables and pie charts. This chapter used the statistical aids to illustrate the findings. Furthermore, the chapter covers statistical analysis, interpretation, and discussion of findings.

4.1 Response rate Analysis

The researcher carried out interviews, distributed questionnaires, and had focus group discussions with the participating respondents under study. The table below shows the response rate.

4.1.2 Response rate on questionnaires

Participants	Questionnaire distributed	Questionnaire returned	Response rate
Mothers	6	6	100%
Fathers	6	6	100%
Total	12	12	100%

The table above shows that twelve questionnaires were distributed and twelve were returned giving an overall response rate of 100%. The 100% response rate was mainly attributed to the researcher's administrative abilities in carrying out the research and it was greatly influenced by the willingness of the respondents to co-operate with the researcher. Furthermore, this was mainly because the questionnaires were self-administered. Using percentiles, the 100%

response rate from the questionnaires depicts that the chosen sample is a true representation of the population and responses give true reflection of the sentiments of the population.

4.1.3 Interviews carried out

Interviews were successfully conducted with the local leaders (ward councillor and village head) and child focused NGO staff (World Vision, Care International in Zimbabwe and SNV staff). The factor that has contributed to the success of the interviews was that the researcher scheduled appointments in advance. Furthermore, the respondents who were being interviewed have experience in dealing with children's rights and community development thereby increasing the reliability and validity of the information. However, the researcher had challenges in interviewing the ward councillor because he was always busy attending party meetings in Bulawayo and Harare, but finally at the end managed to interview him.

4.1.4 Focus Group Discussions

Focus group discussions were successfully done with the children of both primary and secondary school going age. The focus group discussions consisted of eight participants. It was successful because the children were cooperating fully. Furthermore the children were both boys and girls, this ensured that the researcher gets the views of children from both sex so that results are balanced.

4.2 Reasons behind operations of child focused NGOS

Interviews were carried out with members of staff of child focused NGOs to find out reasons behind the operations of child focused NGOs. 100% of the respondents indicated that the NGOs started operating so as to promote the rights of children in Murerezi ward. One of the respondents was quote saying

“We started operating in Murerezi ward so as to promote the rights of children. Violation of children's rights was rampant; this has resulted in us, operating to protect the vulnerable children”

To add on, a World Vision member of staff commented that the organisation started operating to protect children against abuse and child marriages. He further went on to say that according to a survey carried out by World Vision in 2000, Murerezi had the highest cases of child marriages because of the apostolic sect, which believes in marriage by the Holy Spirit. This is the reason why World Vision introduced the Gender Great programme to reduce the prevalence of child marriages.

In addition, during an interview with a Care member of staff, the researcher found out that the NGO started operating to provide children with their right to education because in Murerezi children did not have access to education. The Care International in Zimbabwe member was quote saying

“In Murerezi most of the children did not go to school because of financial difficulties. This resulted in us introducing the VSL programme to help saving money for school fees.”

80 % of the respondents confirmed that they started operating to promote the rights of children to education as stipulated by the article 11 of the ACRWC.

In addition to the above, the ward councillor commented that in the ward children did not have access to textbooks and stationery. This is the reason why WV provides textbooks and stationery to children both primary and secondary children. WV also builds and rehabilitates schools so that children learn in conducive environments.

Moreover, during an interview with the local leaders, the researcher found out that NGOs started operating to promote the right of children to health. The ward councillor confirmed that in Murerezi children did not have access to health because of lack of medical drugs and clinics. Therefore, NGOs started operating to promote health facilities of children. A WV member of staff commented that WV started building clinics and supporting immunisation process in Murerezi ward to promote the health status of children as stipulated by article number 14 of the ACRWC.

Furthermore, during an interview with an SNV member of staff the researcher found out that SNV started operating to provide adequate safe water and sanitation for children. The

councillor pointed out that long back before NGOs started operating children lacked access to safe water and sanitation and this resulted in children dying of cholera. An SNV member of staff was quote saying

“SNV started operating so as to provide safe water and sanitation for children”

This shows that NGOs are promoting the rights of children as stipulated in article 14 of the ACRWC, which states that children have access to health, which include safe water and sanitation.

To add on 75% of the respondents indicated that NGOs started operating to curb malnutrition and promote the health status of children. The village head commented that before the operations of child focused NGOs children in Murerezi used to be affected by malnutrition and hunger because of droughts caused by climate change that has affected the agricultural sector of the country. A WV member of staff commented that the NGO started operating to promote the nutritional status of children. The WV member of staff was quote saying

“WV started operating to promote food security for children. That is why we introduced the PDHearth program to curb malnutrition on children. Nutritional gardens are a way of promoting food security also.”

Furthermore, in an interview with a Care International in Zimbabwe member of staff, the researcher found out that NGOs started operating to provide social protection for children. The ward councillor was quote saying

“Before the operations of child focused NGOs the children were abused and had nowhere to report. But now there are CPCs to protect children”

Child focused NGOs are working with the ministry of social protection and volunteers to protect children against all forms of abuse, exploitation, and violence. This is in line with article number 16 of the ACRWC, which states that children should not be abused or neglected.

In addition, 80 % of the respondents confirmed that they started operating to promote the rights of the disabled child. The WV member of staff commented that the disabled children did not enjoy their rights as the ones who are not. This is the reason why WV provides wheelchairs and pay schools fees for the disabled children at schools such as Henry Murray .The researcher found out from the SNV member of staff that NGOs are building classrooms that enable disabled children to enter with their wheel chairs and toilets that accommodate the disabled. This is in line with article 3 of the ACRWC, which stipulates that children should enjoy their rights despite their race, political affiliation or other status.

4.3 Awareness of the operations of child focused NGOs

The researcher asked questions to the parents, children, and local leaders to find out if they had knowledge about the presence and operations of child focused NGOs in Murerezi ward. Information gathered from the respondents' shows that the community members are fully aware of the operations of the NGOs in their ward. 100 % of the respondents are aware of the operations and existence of child focused NGOs in their community. With the positive response from the respondents, it shows that the operations of the child focused NGOs were noticed and appreciated in the community.

4.4 Assessment on strategies adopted by child focused NGOs

The researcher distributed questionnaires to parents, had a focus group discussion with the children and interviewed the local leaders to assess the strategies adopted by child focused NGOs. The researcher also observed during the field visit to assess whether child focused NGOs are really promoting the rights of children in Murezi ward. Below are the findings from the respondents.

4.4.1 World Vision

4.4.2 Provision of health

The Ward Councillor Mr. Bhenkie confirmed the activities that are done by child focused NGOs in a bid to promote the rights and welfare of children in the ward. However, apart from the responses from the respondents, the researcher also confirmed these developments through direct observations, which were made through the guided tours with the ward councillor. At the time of the research, the researcher found out from the interview that child focused NGOs have been undertaking various developmental projects meant to improve the living standards for the children. During an interview with the local leaders, the researcher found out that World Vision has built Katokwe clinic, which seeks to provide health facilities to the children as in line with article 14 of the ACRWC. In addition, the ward councillor pointed out that World Vision provides medical drugs and partners with the Ministry of Health in immunisation programs. The village head commented that WV conducts workshops to enlighten the parents on PMTCT, which seeks to prevent the transmission of the HIV/AIDS virus from the mother to the child and reducing infant mortality rate. The village head was quote saying

“World Vision has been supporting the ward for so many years by conducting workshops to reduce transmission of HIV from mother to the unborn baby, young children are now born without the virus, and there are not many child deaths.”

From the interview with the local leaders, the researcher found out that because of the operations of WV the death of young children has decreased because of availability of drugs and immunisation. The researcher found out from the interview with local leaders that parents are now willing to be tested for HIV/AIDS during pregnancy so that they can protect their unborn babies from contracting the deadly disease. This shows that WV has effectively managed to promote health of children as shown by reduced infant mortality rate among the children.

4.4.3 Provision of education

During a focus group discussion with the children, the researcher found out that World Vision build and rehabilitates schools such as Supwi, Nhenga and Mponjane and ECD Centres. 80 % of the children commented that WV provides textbooks and stationery for the children .One of the girl from Murerezi secondary school was quote saying

“World Vision builds schools and ECD centres for us children. It provides textbooks and exercise books .WV has helped in the electrification of Murerezi Secondary School .Now we are able to pass well at school. We thank World Vision”

The rehabilitation of schools has provided conducive learning environments for the children, improved the pass rate and reduced dropout rates. This is in line with article 11 of the ACRWC, which states that measures should be taken to reduce dropouts and improve pass rate. The provision of textbooks is in line with the concept of Quality of Education, which encourages a 1:1 textbook pupil ratio. The councillor from the ward pointed out that about 70 % of the children managed to pass their O levels because they have access to textbooks. He went on to say that in the ward, there are children who managed to get 10As at O level. In the interview with the local leaders the researcher found out that WV supports the sporting activities of children through providing soccer, netball and volleyball balls. The researcher learnt that the provision and support of sporting activities is in line with the concept of quality of education, which states that there should be provision of facilities for extracurricular activities such as sports. Thus, WV is effective in promoting education for the children as shown by reduced dropouts and increased pass rate.

4.4.4 Protection of children against child marriages

In a focus group discussion with the children the researcher found out that World Vision has, a program called the Gender Great, which seek to reduce child marriages and child sexual abuse in Murerezi ward. 80 % of the children reported that WV has been conducting workshops with the church leaders, teachers, parents, and children to advocate against child marriages and child sexual abuse. The local leaders also confirmed that child focused NGOs are protecting children against harmful socio-cultural practises that are detrimental to child’s

welfare and dignity such as child marriages and betrothal. One of the girls from the focus group discussion had this to say

“World Vision has protected us from child marriages because it has taught our parents that we have a right to education first and get married when we are old enough”

It has also assisted in the commemorations of the Day of the African Child. This has promoted the participation of children. Thus, child focused NGOs are effective in promoting children’s rights because they have protected them against child marriages that affect their education and health.

4.4.5 Provision of water and sanitation

In a focus group discussion, 75% of the children confirmed that World Vision also drills boreholes for the community and participates in dam rehabilitation to promote health and sanitation of the children and community. The local leaders reported that under the health department World Vision; also builds toilets at household level and at schools to promote health and sanitation of the community to avoid diseases such as cholera and malaria, which causes the death of children. The ward councillor was quote saying

“World Vision has managed to drill boreholes and rehabilitate dams; it has also build toilets at schools and at household level. This has reduced water and airborne diseases, which kill children”

The researcher leant that child focused NGOs are promoting the health of children as articulated in the article number 14 of the ACRWC, which stipulates that measures should be put in place to promote water and sanitation for the children. Thus, child focused NGOs are effective in promoting safe access to clean water and this has managed to reduce diseases such as cholera in children.

4.4.6 Provision of wheelchairs for the disabled children

90 % of the responses from the parents confirmed that World Vision also takes into consideration the needs of the disabled children. The parents reported that World Vision donated wheelchairs to the disabled children. It has also encouraged that the doors and toilets at schools should be accommodative to the disabled children as well. It has been crucial in paying school fees for the deaf children at Henry Murray School for the deaf. The village head was quote saying

“World Vision has managed to send disabled children like Thabolihle to Henry Murray School for the deaf and others to Emerald”

This is in line with article three of the ACRWC, which is on non-discrimination, and it alludes that every child is entitled to the enjoyment of the rights despite their sex, race, religion, political affiliation, and other status. This clearly indicates that child focused NGOs are effective in promoting the rights of children since they ensure that they promote the rights of all children despite sex ,race and other status .They have manage to provide education for the disabled children.

4.4.7 Promotion of food security

100% of the parents indicated World Vision also supports the community with irrigation schemes and nutrition gardens such as Tasununguka .The parents reported that the nutrition gardens are meant to promote food security and nutritional status for the children. WV provides the fencing equipment as well as the seeds. The ward councillor also commented that the money obtained from the sale of the produce from the gardens is used to pay the school fees, health bills and other needs for the children. The councillor was quote saying

“World Vision has provided the ward with Tasununguka nutrition garden where parents grow fruits and vegetables. This has promoted food security of children. Parents sell the vegetables and get money to pay school fees”

He went on to say that WV has a program called PD Hearth, which provide food for malnourished children. . As observed by Tollfree (2004), supplementary feeding remains one of the critical roles performed by NGOs to avert malnourishment and starvation of children.

WV trains village healthcare workers on how to cook nutritious meals using locally available goods. Therefore, in Murerezi child focused NGOs are effectively promoting the rights of children as shown by improving food security and fighting against malnutrition.

4.4.8 Provision of social protection

80% of the responses from the parents showed that WV is playing an important role in protecting children's rights through the setting up of Child Protection Committees (CPCs). The aim of CPCs are to increase the proportion of children that are protected from violence, abuse, and exploitation. From the responses from the parents, the researcher found out that WV works with the Ministry of Social Services to ensure that the CPCs are functioning properly. 70 % of the mothers confirmed that children are now able to report cases of abuses to the CPCs set up by WV. One of the girls in the focus group discussion was quote saying

“Now we can report any form of abuse to the CPCs without any fear because we know they can protect us as children”

From the information gathered from the respondents, the researcher noted that World Vision is effective in promoting the rights of children since they are protecting them from violence, abuse, and exploitation.

4.5 Care International in Zimbabwe

4.5.1 Provision of bicycles

In the interview with the local leaders, the researcher found out that Care International in Zimbabwe is doing a lot to promote the rights of children. The councillor confirmed of the BEEP project, which is there to help those children who come from far away villages to quickly get to school. He went on to say that, this has increased attendance of children at school. 100% of the children revealed out that Care has provided bicycles for both girls and boys. One of the boys was quote saying

“Care has given us bicycles so that we come to school early. I now enjoy going to school”

This has helped in reducing dropouts as well as absenteeism at schools. Children now enjoy going to school because of the means of transport that has been provided. This is in line with article 11 of the ACRWC, which states that children have the right to education. The article goes on to explain that measures must be taken to encourage attendance and reduce dropout rates. Therefore, the researcher learnt that Care is promoting the rights of children through encouraging school attendances and reducing dropouts through the bicycles.

4.5.2 Provision of VSL

In an interview with the local leaders, the researcher found out that Care through the VSL program it has been teaching the village members how to save money. The village head went on to say that, the main purpose of saving the money is to save money for paying school fees for the children. The village head was quote saying

“Through the VSL parents are now able to save money for children school fees, some of the children that have dropped out are now back at school because of the VSL programme by Care”

Due to the worsening of economic conditions, parents have been failing to pay school fees for their children. 80% of the responses from the parents confirmed that through the VSL program by Care, parents have been able to save money and pay school fees for their children only 20 % indicated that they are not able to pay school fees. The councillor commented that some of the children that have dropped out of school have now returned because of the VSL program. The researcher also learnt that parents could now afford to buy stationery and school uniforms from their savings. This in line with article number 11 of the ACRWC, which states that children have the right to education and measures, should be put in place to encourage attendance and reduce dropouts. In this case, the VSL program by Care through IGATE has managed to reduce dropouts as school fees can now be raised from the savings.

From the responses from the parents, the researcher found out that Care through the IGATE project has changed parents’ perceptions on the roles that girls and boys play. Parents’ treatment of the girl child has changed from the traditional authoritarian attitude to a

consultative one whereby the girl child has a right to speak for herself and not to be spoken for. One of the girls was quote saying

“Now my parents listen to my views as a girl child, they also support me in my education. My parents treat me just the same as my brothers because of the IGATE program”

The researcher learnt that through the operations of Care International in Zimbabwe the parents have realised that girls have the right to education just like the boy child and parents now support the girls in their education. The involvement of males and boys in the IGATE project ensures the success of the project. The researcher found out that local leaders and other males are involved in the Mothers Group activities so that they work together to achieve empowerment of the girl child.

4.5.3 Provision of life and leadership skills

During a focus group discussion with the children, the researcher found out that, Care has a program called Power Within, which seeks to provide children with life and leadership skills and development and enable them to make decisions of their own without the influence of other people. 70 % of the children reported that their confidence has been boosted through the Power Within programs. The children are now confident to participate in matters that affect their lives. Therefore, it can be noted that child focused NGOs are promoting the participation of children through the Power Within programme.

4.6 SNV

4.6.1 Provision of menstruation pads

In an interview with the councillor, the researcher found out that SNV is also doing a lot in promoting the rights of children. The menstruation time is a very scary time for the teenage girls. This is so because some children do not afford the sanitary wear so they end up absconding lessons and dropping out because of the menstruation blood. In the interview, the researcher learnt that SNV has come in to help with the RUMP, which is reusable pads and involving the private sector to help with the supply of pads. This has encouraged the

attendance of girls even when they are menstruating thereby increasing the pass rate at schools. 70 % of the children reported that SNV is really helping them with menstrual pads. One of the girls was quote saying

“Because of the RUMP provided by SNV I can now attend school even when I am having my periods and am now confident to go to school even during my periods”

4.6.2 Provision of education on menstrual hygiene

In a focus group discussion with the children, the researcher learnt that SNV is doing a lot in providing information and education on menstrual hygiene. That some of the primary girls explained that at home they are not educated about menstruation. Therefore, SNV has chipped in to provide awareness. 70 % of the children reported that SNV has introduced the reusable pads to help those who cannot afford to buy sanitary wear. They went on to say that, they are taught how to make the reusable pads in order to avoid the use of old rags and newspapers, which causes cancer. The children explained that this has resulted in them attending school even when they are menstruating. Therefore, SNV has encouraged the attendance rate of children at school. The use of reusable pads reduces the risk of children from being affected with cancer.

4.6.3 Provision of access to safe and clean drinking water

Responses from the parents indicated that SNV is doing a great job in increasing access to clean and safe drinking water and sanitation. The ward councillor also said that SNV provides the community with the capacity to procure the products for repairing and drilling boreholes. The researcher also learnt that SNV trains the community on hygiene and sanitation, water and sanitation facility maintenance, improvement, and upgrading. Therefore, SNV enables children to get access to adequate safe water.

However, it is important to note that in some cases child focused NGOs fail to promote the rights of children. In an interview with the local leaders, the researcher found out that NGOs do not include children in decision-making that is they do not have a Child Participation Framework. The NGOs do not consult children on which projects they have in mind. Whilst

some community participation is evident and relatively high, some salient children views are not incorporated in project design. This undermines the right of children to participate in issues that affect them. NGOs just come with projects saying that they seek to promote the children's rights but they did not involve them in the decision making of the projects to be undertaken.

80 % of the parents reported that child focused NGOs clash with the culture of children. For example the sex education that is being given to children of school going age. The ward councillor commented that this exposes the children into a new world they do not know thereby creating a condition of inquisitiveness and the idea of experimenting which may put the life of children at risk. This also reflects on the inappropriateness of the mentor to the subject, situation, and audience. The ward councillor commented that, child focused NGOs encourage children to report any forms of abuse even when their parents discipline them. This is against the African culture, which allows the parents to discipline their children. In addition, this is against article 20 of the ACRWC, which stipulates that parents have the right to ensure domestic discipline is administered with humanity.

Furthermore, 80 % of the boys in the focus group discussion reported that child focused NGOs tend to overemphasize on the rights of the girl child. For example, a grinding meal project to raise school fees for the girl child, loans for the girl child and sanitary pads for the girl child. In this case, the NGOs are more concerned with the girl child than the boy child. This is against article number 3 of the ACRWC, which states that every child is entitled to the enjoyment of their rights, despite their sex, race, religion, political affiliation, and other status.

More So, in an interview with the local leaders, the researcher found out that the sustainability issue undermines the effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children. Since child focused NGOs do not involve children in project design this results in non-sustainability of the projects especially after the NGO has stopped operations. This is so because the children do not feel ownership of the projects as they were not part of the decision making process.

In analyzing the findings, the researcher gathered through the direct observation and responses from the respondents highlight that, despite the developments that are done so far, there is still more to be done for the children. The already existing structures in most schools in the ward need refurbishment (roofs, floors, furniture etc.). There is also need for children to participate in the budgeting process so that they also stress the projects they want that directly benefit them (Child Participation Framework) .Entrepreneurship clubs for the children and need to assist children with school fees to reduce dropouts

4.7 Challenges of Child Focused NGOs

4.7.1 Funding challenge

The interviews, which were conducted with child focused NGOs staff, revealed some of the challenges being faced. In an interview, a WV staff reported that child focused NGOs are facing funding challenges. He went on further to say that because of the global economic recession; donors have stopped or reduced funding when they find out that their financial houses are in a state of economic recession. This has affected the work of the child focused Ngos in promoting the rights of children. The WV member of staff was quote saying

“We have stopped big projects such as building of classroom blocks and clinics because of budget cuts”

This concurs with the argument made by Agere (2014), who argues that the availability of funding is critical to service delivery of the NGOs while the unavailability of funds plays a delimitating role in the effective running of these institutions. Therefore, it can be noted that lack of funding slows down the work of child focused NGOs and reduces their effectiveness in promoting the rights of children. 100 % of the NGO staff commented that the funding challenge has affected the quality and quantity of important work done by child focused NGOs.

4.7.2 Corruption and embezzlement of funds

During the interview with child focused NGO staff, the researcher found out that corruption and embezzlement of funds is another challenge. 70 % of the interviewed NGO staff commented that corruption is both within the organisation and in the community. This goes in line with the argument made by Agere and Coetzer (2014) which states that corruption and its ramifications manifesting itself in embezzlement of organisational funds, playing ghost workers misuse of organisational infrastructure such as vehicles for one's personal gain is a cankerworm that seriously continue to undermine the productivity of organisations. In many NGOs, reports have indicated that those entrusted with funds for the institutions misuse them for personal benefit and in some instances corruptly access funding (The Herald, 2014; Agere, 2014). A WV member of staff was quote saying that

“Some community members for example use building equipment for the building of their personal homes instead of classroom blocks. Some community members are corrupt to the extent of using cement meant for building of toilets or classroom blocks in their personal projects, which have nothing to do with the promotion of children's rights.”

This is a challenge to the child focused NGOs because this has affected developmental projects and lengthened the time of completion of projects. The researcher also learnt that in some cases NGO staff work with the community members to abuse the resources meant for the benefit of children. This has resulted in projects taking too long to be completed and this has affected the effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children in Murerezi ward.

In an interview with the local leaders, the researcher found out that World Vision is facing a challenge in that children are losing interest in the Sponsorship programme, which is where the organisation receives most of its funding. He went on to say that, World Vision does not have direct benefits to the children or their families, so the children feel that they are being used just for funding for the organisation. However, World Vision deals with community benefits in that the benefits do not come directly to the children or their families but to the

whole community through for example a classroom block, clinic, books, and irrigation scheme. So children especially the old aged ones are now refusing to participate in the sponsorship programs such as capturing of images. A WV member of staff commented that this proves to be a major challenge for the operations of World Vision because Sponsorship programme is where the organisation receives about 80 % of their funding.

4.7.3 Lack of cooperation from the community

During the interview with NGO staff, the researcher found out that lack of cooperation from the community is a challenge to the NGOs. The researcher learnt that in some cases the community refuses to cooperate fully in projects in the interview with World Vision staff. The NGO member of staff was quote saying

“Sometimes the community members do not cooperate fully as shown in the rehabilitation of Supwi School, parents were forced to collect some water, sand, and gravel”

The councillor echoed same sentiments. For example in the school rehabilitation, the parents took long to collect water, sand, and moulding of bricks to the extent that the cement provided by World Vision ended up drying. There is also issue of theft of building materials such as cement. This has resulted in the late completion of projects, which is detrimental to development.

4.7.4 Donor driven initiatives

80 % of the interviewed NGO members of staff made a comment that child focused NGOs face a challenge in that they follow donor driven initiative. For example if the donor says the funding is for building of classroom blocks the money will be used for that even though there was need for a clinic. This results in imposition of projects on the children and the community. This sometimes results in resentment towards projects and the non-sustainability of projects. . A Care International in Zimbabwe member of staff made a comment that following donor driven initiative has resulted in duplication of projects. In addition, donors

are against the paying of schools fees because they argue that this promotes donor syndrome on the parents.

4.7.5 Repressive legislation: Private Voluntary Organisation Act

100% of the interviewed NGO members of staff commented that barbaric legislations such as the Private Voluntary Organization Act, which were initiated to suppress the activities of NGOs are a challenge to child focused NGOs. In Zimbabwe, NGOs are governed and regulated through the NGO Act of 2004, which has been described by Moyo (2005) as a draconian piece of legislation. In the interview with NGOs, members of staff the researcher found out that the laws gave the government absolute authority to approve and disapprove any NGOs year span plans in an arbitrary manner. An SNV member of staff was quote saying

“NGOs are required to register with government first before they start operating .The government has the power to indiscriminately cancel the operational license for any NGO. Resultantly the effectiveness of the child focused NGOs are slowed down on several occasions due to late response by the state which may be attributed to bureaucracy in the government system.”

The researcher found out that, these constraints resulted in recurring delays in implementing the launch of strategic plans by child focused NGOs and generally added complexity to the development environment.

4.7.6 Lack of government support

90% of the interviewed NGO staff stated that lack of government support is a challenge. The lack of cooperation from the government poses a serious detriment to the efficiency of NGOs in service delivery (Kang’ethe, 2010). In many countries especially where democratic dispensation has not taken roots, the governments have been viewing NGOs as sympathizers of the opposition politicians and therefore using bureaucracy and administrative forces to harass them (African Commission on People’s and Human Rights, 2009). A Care International in Zimbabwe staff was quote saying

“The NGOs supporting children are yet to experience the kind of support other NGOs enjoy from their respective Governments. NGOs that are into policy and governance engagements usually are tagged as being in the opposing divide. “

Lack of government support affect the effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting rights of children in Murerezi ward

4.8 Conclusion

The chapter generally covered data analysis, presentation, and discussion of findings. The chapter also covered the discussion of findings on the reasons behind operations, assessment of strategies adopted by child focused NGOs and challenges of child focused NGOs. The researcher found out that child focused NGOs are playing an important role in promoting the rights of children in terms of promoting food security, health facilities, education and provision of social services. The child focused NGOs face challenges such as funding, corruption, and embezzlement of funds, lack of cooperation from the community and repressive legislation.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

The principal areas of this chapter consist of summary, conclusions, and recommendations. The chapter is going to cover the summary of the research and conclusions. The chapter also presents summary on the reasons behind the operations, assessment of strategies adopted, and challenges of child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children in Murerezi ward. The chapter will also outline the recommendations for effective child rights promotion by child focused NGOs in Murerezi ward.

5.1 Summary

The research sought to assess the effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children in Murerezi. The research findings showed that child focused NGOs have been successful in promoting the rights and welfare of children in Murerezi ward and all the objectives were satisfied with the research outcomes. However, the researcher found out that in some cases the NGOs have faced challenges and this has affected their effectiveness in promoting the rights of children. Research findings were supported by literature and empirical evidence from textbooks, journals, research papers, newsletters, and other scholars' previous thesis. This helped the researcher to develop literature body and used it throughout the research and being able to identify research gaps and closing them.

Twelve questionnaires were distributed and the respondents returned twelve. The researcher carried out interviews with the child focused NGOs staff and local leaders. The researcher had a focus group discussion with the children, both boys and girls. The researcher used descriptive and exploratory research design and purposive and stratified random sampling methods were used in picking out sample units.

During the research, some limitations were encountered such as accessing confidential child focused NGOs information. However, the researcher managed to deal with the challenges as

the researcher made it clear to the information custodians that the information will solely be used for academic purposes only and the information was granted for the researcher's use, which led to the success of conducting the research. The researcher had problems with meeting with the councillor since he was busy but at last managed to meet him. Despite the constraints, which were encountered as in any other research project, the researcher made the following conclusions from the various findings gathered from the respondents.

5.2 Conclusions

5.2.1 Major conclusions

From the research findings gathered, the researcher concluded that it is evident that child focused NGOs have managed to promote the rights and welfare of children in Murerezi ward. It can be noted that a number of both primary and secondary schools have been built and rehabilitated. In addition, clinics have been built, irrigation schemes, nutritional gardens provided. Programs such as Positive Deviance Hearth to promote the health status of children have been implemented. In addition, children have been given bicycles, affordable menstrual pads and provision of menstrual education. The NGOs have managed to make sure that children gain access to adequate safe water. All this in the name of promoting the rights of children such as right to health, education, and food. However, the researcher noted that there are still some developments to be done. For example, school furniture is needed and toilets in other schools need to be built. Projects specifically meant for children to raise their school fees also need to be put in place to reduce dropout rate at schools. The NGOs need to have a Child Participation framework and put into consideration the culture of children. This is so because culture has an impact on development.

5.3 Sub conclusions

5.3.1 Reasons behind the operations of child focused NGOs

The research findings confirmed that child focused NGOs operate to promote children's rights in Murerezi. 80 % of the interviewed respondents from child focused NGOs indicated that in Murerezi ward the violation of children's rights was the main reason behind their operations. They stated that children were being denied their rights to food, shelter, participation, health, and water. Child marriages and child labour are also reasons behind their operations. It can be noted that children as young as 13 years are into marriage and others working as house cleaners or herdsmen. The members of the apostolic sect are the ones causing child marriages because of their marriage by the Holy Spirit and they refuse children to be immunized. Most of the children are malnourished because of drought and climate change that has affected the agricultural sector. As a way of reducing the impacts of bad governance, SAP, climate change and the sanctions which negatively affected the livelihoods of children, child focused NGOs are operating in Mberengwa to provide life in its all fullness for the children.

5.3.2 Assessment on strategies adopted by child focused NGOs in promoting rights of children in Murerezi

The research findings confirmed that child focused NGOs are doing a lot in promoting the rights of children. This can be noted through the building of primary and secondary schools such as Mponjane, Nhenga, and Supwi in the ward. A clinic built and the NGOs provide medication and supports immunization programs in partnership with the Ministry of Health. Child Focused NGOs partner with the Ministry of Education in supporting the inspection of schools so that children learn in conducive environments. It is also important to note that NGOs build household toilets for the children to promote water and sanitation. Nutrition gardens have been provided to promote the nutritional status of children. However, it can be noted that child focused NGOs do not pay school fees for the children so the dropout rate for children is still high. Also child marriages are still occurring because of children not

attending school and they resort to marriage or child prostitution .Children are not participating in the design and implementation of projects.

5.3.3 Challenges of child focused NGOs in Murerezi

Child focused NGOs are having funding challenges .As a result of the world economic recession donors have reduced or stopped funding. This has affected operations of NGOs leading to some projects not completed. Another challenge child focused NGOs are facing is that of poor community cooperation as noted by slow mobilization of locally available building materials such as sand, gravel, and bricks, this has resulted in late completion of projects and this has a negative on development. The child focused NGO are facing a challenge of donor driven initiatives. The NGOs operate as per donor interests more than children's interests. This has resulted in imposition of projects, which in turn affects sustainability of projects. On a more positive note, the operations of child focused NGOs already in the community and their perpetual existence will initiate several projects in the ward that will stand to benefit the children in attaining their rights such as right to education, health, identity food and to participate.

5.4 Recommendations

The evidence which the researcher derived from various responses necessitated the suggestion of recommendations which can assist child focused NGOs at large as follows;

5.4.1 Child Participatory Framework

Child focused NGOs should adopt the child participation framework. This involves the participation of children in the project design and implementation. Since they are child focused NGOs they should involve children more. This ensures that they cater for the needs of the children as they have participated in the decision making process. This also makes the children feel ownership of the projects that seek to benefit them .This also encourages cooperation since children can also influence their parents to participate fully in projects such

as the building of schools, toilets, and clinics. The projects will also be sustainable. The NGOs must investigate some of the popular children's positions before proceeding with project design by asking direct questions like "how would you want this project to be done" and allowing children to debate.

5.4.2 A healthy State-NGO relationship

The state and the child focused NGOs should have a healthy relationship so that children's rights can be promoted effectively. This can be achieved if both parties share common objectives. There should be a genuine partnership between child focused NGOs and the government to work on a problem facing the country based on mutual respect acceptance autonomy, independence, and pluralism of NGO opinions and positions. Child focused NGOs should play more of their operational role, desist from taking any political side, so that states can trust them, and not view them as regime change agents.

5.4.3 Revision of brutal legislation

On the legislation front, a revision of brutal legislation such as the PVO Act could facilitate a harmonious relationship that determines and positively directs the bond of the two institutions in order for them to be effective in discharging their obligations of promoting children's rights. In addition, it would also be helpful if media laws in Zimbabwe are revised in order to allow child focused NGOs to publish their findings, effectively communicate, and provide education to the public concerning issues on human rights particularly to do with the rights of children.

5.4.4 Child protection committees

At macro level child focused NGOs should strive to work with government social services arms to ensure that child protection committees, at all levels, receive training on child protection issues. It is crucial; for child focused NGOs to employ more qualified personnel especially volunteers who understand the implications of certain situations, particularly those related with children's rights, and can therefore be effective.

5.4.5 Local resource mobilization

It can be noted that child focused NGOs should have local resource mobilization instead of relying on foreign donors. Local resource mobilization provides potential for NGOs to raise funds from local businesses, individuals, government, and locally generated income. It is important to note that, to do these NGOs must have strong governance and accountability mechanisms, clear strategies, and local credibility. This will help child focused NGOs to overcome funding challenges.

5.4.6 Projects for raising children school fees

It can be noted that since the dropout rate of children is high, child focused NGOs should implement projects that are specifically meant to generate income for school fees only. The projects should be done at the schools e.g. the growing of fruits and vegetables for sale both locally and the town .Child focused NGOs can provide market linkages e.g. with supermarkets for the fruits and vegetable. It has to help with issues of transparency and accountability to curb corruption. The money generated will then be used to pay school fees for the children. In this way, the dropout rate would decrease.

5.4.7 Project Monitoring

Child focused NGOs should monitor the field projects regularly to check if resources are not abused in the community. Regular project monitoring also ensures that projects are completed in time and this enhances the effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting children's rights. Since child focused NGOs face challenge of corruption and embezzlement of funds in the community, they should provide record keeping education on local leaders so that they would check that project resources are not abused.

5.3.8 Direct Benefits to children

It can be noted that since the children are losing interest in the Sponsorship program, World Vision should provide direct benefits to the children. Even though the budget is not enough I think holding small parties at the end of each year where they provide sweets and food for the

children is good .This is so because children like parties and they will have interest in the Sponsorship Program because they at least benefit something little. In addition, World Vision should at least employ some of the children that used to be in the Sponsorship even as volunteers so that others will want the Sponsorship program knowing that one day they can also be workers of the organization.

5.4.9 Sponsorship Education.

To add on World Vision also need to provide sponsorship education to the community and the children. That is disseminating information on the benefits of joining the sponsorship program. That it benefits the community at large so that even those outside sponsorship can also have access to education, health, and food. This will enhance knowledge on the community so that they cooperate fully. Parents will also encourage their children to participate in the Sponsorship program .This will also help in terms of the budget because sponsors will increase thus the budget will also increase.

5.5 Conclusion

The chapter consisted of summary, conclusions, and recommendations. It can be noted that the child focused NGOs are effective in promoting children's rights since they have managed to promote food security, health facilities, and education and child protection facilities. The chapter also provides recommendations. The recommendations are child participation framework, revision of brutal legislation, child protection committees, local resource mobilisation, and projects for raising children school fees, project monitoring and direct benefits for the children. Child focused NGOs can play a very meaningful role in community mobilisation for action at the grass root level to effect attitudinal change towards children ,step up sensitisation programmes on issues of child abuse and violence and adopt more rights based approach.

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APPENDIX 1

Interview guide questions for child focused NGOs selected staff members

Topic: The effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children: Case of Murerezi ward.

1. How many years have you been working with this organisation?
2. What is the mission of this organisation?
3. How does your organisation define a child?
4. As an organisation, why did you choose to focus on children rights?
5. What role as an organisation are you playing to promote children rights?
6. What programs and projects are you carrying out to promote these rights?
7. As an organisation, are you achieving the intended goals and objectives?
8. What challenges are you facing in doing this?
9. As an organisation, what alternatives are you using to overcome these challenges?

APPENDIX 2

Interview guide for Murerezi local leaders

1. How many years have you stayed in the ward?
2. What are the roles played by child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children in Murerezi ward?
3. What programs and projects are they carrying out to promote children rights?
4. Are they achieving in promoting the rights of children?
5. Has the living standards of children in Murerezi improved because of the presence of child focused NGOs?
6. What challenges are the organisations facing in promoting the rights of children?

APPENDIX 3

Questionnaire for parents (mothers and fathers)

Dear Participant

My name is Sibanda Lydia T (R122624A) a final year BA Honours degree in Development studies student at Midlands State University. The aim of this research is to assess the effectiveness of child focused NGOs in promoting the rights of children in Murerezi ward. Above all this research is carried out in partial fulfilment of the requirement of the BA Honours degree of Development studies at Midlands State University and it therefore seeks for your support and honest response.

Please be assured that information given is particularly for academic purposes and no inference will occur against your need for privacy. May you kindly fill in this questionnaire by putting a tick/s in boxes that most closely match your views or alternatively write in the spaces provided? 1. Ward 2 20 18

2. Gender: Male Female

3. For how long have you been living in this community?

0 ≤ 1 year 1 ≤ 5 years

5 ≤ 10 years 10 years and above

4. Sources of income: Employment Gold panning

Community projects Informal trading

5. (A) Do you have any knowledge about child focused NGOs operating in Murerezi ward

Yes

No

(b) If yes, how are they operating to promote children?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

6. (A) Indicate the developments, which were done in your community

Schools

Clinics

ECD Centres

Income generating projects

Other developments, please specify

7. What benefits are you enjoying from the child focused NGOs

8. What have been done by child focused NGOs to promote the rights of children?

9. What are your recommendations towards the operations of child focused NGOs?

.....Thank You.....

APPENDIX 4

Direct observation checklist

Projects by child focused NGOs in Murerezi ward



Figure 1 a borehole drilled to enable children to have access to safe drinking water



Figure 2a nutrition garden to promote food and security for children



Figure 3 ECD centre to promote education for children

APPENDIX 5

Focus Group Discussion Guide for the children

1. How long have you stayed in the ward?
2. Do you know of any child focused NGOs in the ward?
3. What programs and projects are child focused NGOs carrying out to protect your rights?
4. Are you benefiting from the projects?
5. Do you participate in project design?

