A STUDY INTO FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AMONG CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL CARE. A CASE OF SOS CHILDREN’S VILLAGE, BINDURA

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on factors associated with juvenile delinquency among children in residential care, a case of SOS Children’s Village Bindura. The study utilised a case study research design with a sample of 36 children in the SOS Children’s who have committed delinquent acts. Five key informants also participate in this research these consists of the Village Director, village social worker and 3 SOS mothers. Probability and non-probability sampling methods were used during this research. In the collection of the appropriate and relevant data, the researcher made use of interviews and focus group discussion. The analysis of data involved thematic content analysis and Microsoft excel. The results obtained shows that there are various forms of delinquent behaviour in the village and substance and alcohol abuse is the major delinquent behaviour by children in the village. Furthermore, the research findings were that peer influence and parental abuse are the major causes of delinquency in the village. The results shows that concerted efforts by the stakeholders to curb delinquent behaviour has not yield expected results. Hence, there is need for strengthening other alternatives of care rather than residential care so as to limit the number of children in care. The researcher further recommends that in the preparation of strategies to deal with delinquent children, the objectives should be clearly stated and channelled to each person involved in the disciplinary process. Also that the children should be educated on the effects of drugs