EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS OVC/ A CASE STUDY OF MUTUMBA PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL, MASHONALAND CENTRAL, ZIMBABWE.

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ABSTRACT

Education has been a major factor in determination of one’s ability to solve challenges and attain personal development and Zimbabwe has been noted as one of the leading literacy countries in Africa. The HIV and AIDS which has hit several Sub-Saharan Africa did not spare Zimbabwe henceforth leading to an enormous number of OVC due to deaths recorded. OVC have since been victims of several exclusions in accessing several welfare needs such as education, shelter, clothing and basic needs such as food. The study focused on educational support as this is the linchpin of development of an individual and the nation at large. The study was able to assess the nature of assistance being offered to the rural populace as they have been noted to be overlooked. The researcher utilised case study as a research design and primary sources of data collection through use of qualitative methods such as interviews, focus group discussions and questioners. The tools of data collection adopted in the study enabled the attainment of subjective and descriptive understanding of the nature of assistance to OVC from the recipients themselves. This also enabled the researcher to come up with rich discussions with the respondents in attaining information needed to answer questions for the objectives of the study. The study noted that the government through BEAM, NGOs such as SOS, Capernaum Trust and individuals and churches has been the major sponsors in the education of OVC with BEAM catering for a larger number assisting four hundred and sixty-nine OVC, representing (66%) of OVC receiving educational assistance at Mutumba Primary and Secondary school. There has however, been noted gaps in the findings within the existing assistance programmes as most of them only cater for school fees and ignoring other factors such as basic needs which have an effect in educational attainment of OVC and are also residual in approach. The recommendations given are to strengthen the existing strategies as some legislations lack implementation.