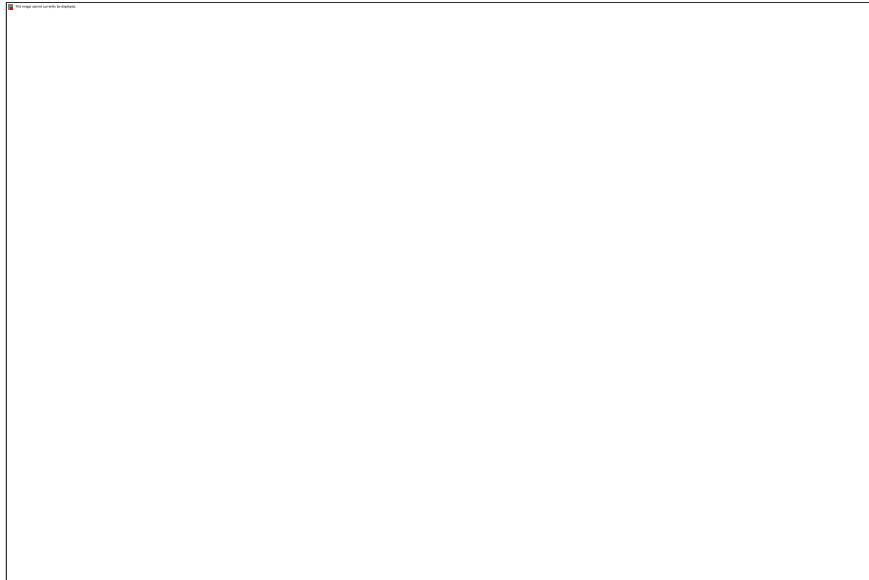**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms for the orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth from 2020 to 2024. A case of Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care.

BY

B190090B

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN PEACE AND GOVERNANCE.

BINDURA ZIMBABWE

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ABSTRACT

This research study sought to assess the effectiveness of psychosocial support interventions in addressing the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari, Epworth. This research study employed descriptive research methodology. The study population consisted of 20 participants, including key informants from Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care organization. Data was collected using key informant interviews, structured interviews, and a focus group discussion. The findings of the study revealed that children face significant challenges due to the loss of parental care and exposure to adverse circumstances, making psychosocial support programs crucial for their emotional, social, and psychological well-being. The findings suggest that psychosocial support programs in Epworth have shown promising results. These programs provide tailored interventions in a nurturing environment, addressing the specific needs of orphaned and vulnerable children. The involvement of trained professionals, such as psychologists and social workers, has been crucial in designing and implementing these interventions. The recommendations of the study include strengthening and expanding the psychosocial support programs, enhancing capacity building for professionals, fostering community engagement, and advocating for policy changes to improve the quality of psychosocial programs in Epworth. Further research is needed to explore the long-term effects of these programs, analyze cost effectiveness, consider cultural factors, assess parental and caregiver involvement, and evaluate the potential of technology-based interventions.

Key words

Vulnerable children, psychosocial support

DECLARATION

I, B190090B declare that the content of this dissertation is my own original work with the exception of such quotations or references which have been attributed to their sources and has not been previously submitted to any other university.
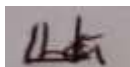
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I certify that the procedures have been followed and the preparation criteria have been met for this project.

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(*signature of the chairperson*)

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my parents Mr Loki and Mrs Loki who sacrificed everything to sponsor my education financially and emotionally. It is dedicated to the Gamba family for their continuous encouragement. I also want to dedicate this to my siblings and friends for their support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS   **Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome**

COVID 19   **Coronavirus Disease of 2019**

HIV   **Human Immune Virus**

OVC   **Orphaned and Vulnerable Children**

PSS   **Psychosocial Support**

REPSSI   **Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative**

UNICEF   **United Nations International Drug Control Programme**

WHO   **World Health Organization**

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CHAPTER 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The number of children who have been orphaned in the world is rising at an alarming rate. An estimated 12.3 million orphans live in Sub-Saharan Africa (Myovela 2012), highlighting the severity of the issue in the region. The rapid influx in the number of orphans has become a significant cause for concern. Studies have shown that the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to a notable rise in the number of orphaned and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe (Bennell 2021). The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2022), highlights that there are approximately 1.5 million orphaned children in Zimbabwe and almost half of them have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

According to African tradition, orphaned children are usually entrusted to the care of extended family members. Lemeyu et al. (2022) points out that these children not only grapple with the emotional strain of losing their parents but also face challenges that come with being raised by caregivers. This study assesses the effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms for the orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth. Epworth is described by Chigumira (2019) as a prominent town in Harare, where residents experience significant levels of poverty. Chigumira (2019) noted that residents in Epworth rely on informal jobs with meagre income which cannot cover their daily basic needs. This reality is underscored by the informal living conditions prevalent in the area, as access to services like energy, water, and sanitation are limited or altogether absent. Housing structures often consist of unauthorized buildings and makeshift shacks (Chigumira, 2019). In addition to economic hardships, Epworth faces challenges such as inadequate educational opportunities, lack of social support, and limited access to essential services like counselling and healthcare. These challenges are intensified by the stigma and

discrimination faced by orphans and vulnerable children. Additionally, these orphans are at risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as their caregivers are already overwhelmed by their own difficulties.

Psychosocial support has been provided to help address some of the challenges faced by orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth. Allem (2020) noted that the goal of psychosocial support is to make life easier for minors especially the vulnerable and the orphaned children. This is achieved through the provision of their basic needs, educational support programs, child protection intervention, medical assistance, economic empowerment initiatives and social support initiatives. The interventions have been partially fulfilled with more educational support programs being introduced in different schools and children being empowered. However, the goal has not been fully achieved as evidenced by the rising number of child prostitution in Epworth, high crime rate, school dropouts, child marriages, drugs and substance abuse, and has been recorded that orphaned and vulnerable children are the victims and perpetrators. As noted, the lack of basic needs and mental health care results in behavioural change (WHO 2021). The study aims at analysing the impact of psychosocial support on the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children.

1.2 Purpose of the study

The study seeks to assess the effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms for orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth face a number of challenges that threaten their overall well-being and growth. The absence of parental guidance, exposure to challenging circumstances, and limited access to necessary resources may result in emotional turmoil,

social alienation, and hindered psychological and social maturation. The provision of effective psychosocial support is vital in addressing the multiple needs of this vulnerable population and promoting their holistic well-being. Psychosocial support mechanisms, such as counseling, support groups, and community-based interventions, play a significant role in fostering emotional stability, building resilience, and facilitating social integration. However, the availability, accessibility, and quality of psychosocial support systems in Epworth remains unclear.

This study aims to investigate the effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms in addressing the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth. Specifically, it seeks to explore the impact of these support mechanisms on the children's psychological, social, and emotional well-being, as well as identifying factors that contribute to the success of these interventions. By understanding the effectiveness of psychosocial support programs, this research will provide valuable insights to inform policy decisions, resource allocation, and the development of more comprehensive and responsive support systems for orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth. The findings of this study will add new knowledge to existing knowledge on the effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms in similar contexts and offer evidence-based recommendations to improve the well-being and overall development of orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth.

1.4 Research Objectives

- To explore the experiences of orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari, Epworth.
- To examine the strategies used by psychosocial support systems in addressing the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari, Epworth.
- To assess the effectiveness of psychosocial support programs in Domboramwari,

Epworth.

1.5 Research questions

1. What are the experiences of orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari, Epworth?

2. What strategies are being used by psychosocial support systems in Dombomwari, Epworth?

3. How effective are the psychosocial support intervention mechanisms in Domboramwari, Epworth?

1.6 Assumptions

Community based organisations and institutions in Epworth have been implementing psychosocial support programs to capacitate orphans and vulnerable children to make good about about their lives and to achieve self-actualisation. Challenges such as poverty, neglect, and stigma affect the vulnerable and orphaned children's ability to make decisions and self-esteem. The challenges these orphans and vulnerable children face exposes them to engage in drugs and substance abuse, criminal activities, dropping out of school, child marriages and prostitution. Psychosocial support serves to provide the psychological support to orphans and vulnerable children so that they are able to deal with different situations.

1.7 Significance of the Study

This seeks to improve the lives of the orphans and vulnerable children in Epworth. It will also lead to the development of more effective interventions and programs that offer adequate support to orphans and vulnerable children.

Community Based Organizations

This study will guide CBO's on how to improve the mental health and well-being of orphans and vulnerable children in society. The civil society play a vital role in supporting the vulnerable and orphaned children through advocacating for the improvement of access of services.

The Orphan and vulnerable children

The study will improve the mental health and wellbeing of orphans and vulnerable children who are at the risk of psychological distress and other challenges. The understanding of effectiveness of psychosocial support will result in development of more effective interventions to meet their needs and improvement of their quality of life.

The Policy Makers

The study will provide valuable insights on the most effective methods of providing support to orphaned and vulnerable orphaned children. This leads to the formulation of more effective policies and programs that have a lasting impact on the lives of these children.

To the community

The study will help the community to be aware of the needs of the vulnerable children and orphans. This leads to social cohesion and fostering a collective approach towards addressing the needs of vulnerable and orphaned children in communities.

To scholars

The research will bring new knowledge to existing knowledge and inform future research. This creates a platform for scholars to develop new interventions and approaches that are based on evidence and best practices, leading to improved outcomes for orphaned and vulnerable children around the world.

1.8 Delimitation of study

The research is mainly focused on the effectiveness of psychosocial support in Epworth, Domboramwari area. The study focused on the effectiveness of psychosocial support systems offered the period of 2020 to the year 2024.

1.9 Limitations of the study

- Access to Data: Access to data might be challenging due to confidentiality and organizational cultural reasons. To address this, the researcher will seek formal agreements with organizations to ensure data access, emphasizing the study's confidentiality measures.

- Bias in Data Collection: Information gathered from questionnaires and interviews might be biased. To address this, the student will employ multiple data collection methods, such as triangulating data from surveys, interviews, and focus groups to cross-verify information

- Limited Research Time: The research timeframe is limited as many organizations will be occupied with activities during the student's field research period. To address this, the researcher will develop a detailed project timeline and schedule interviews and data collection well in advance.

1.10 Definition of key words

Psychosocial support

Freeman, et al. (2021) defines psychosocial support as the act of addressing important aspects of positive human development. Furthermore, Freeman et al. (2021) highlights that the acrivities involve meeting an individual's pschosocial which includes their emotions, social life, mind, and spiritual needs. It assists children, and their families develop internal and external resources to deal with challenges.

Mental health

WHO (2022) defines mental health as a state of mental wellbeing that gives an individual capacity to he people to deal with the stresses of life. Moreover, it ensures that an individual learns and works well so that they can contribute to the community. Mental health is an important element in health and well-being as it highlights an individual's overall potenial to make choices, establish relationships and shape the world they live in.

Neglect

Radford (2011) defined neglect as continuosly failing to meet a child's basic neccesities and it is a common form of child abuse. It includes Neglect includes instances where a child is left unattended, unclean, hungry and homeless.

Self-actualisation

Self-actualisation is the full realisation of one's creative, intellectual and social potential through internal drives (Selva 2017).

Child protection

Child protection is defined by UNICEF (2021), child protection is the prevention of and response to exploitation, abuse, neglect, harmful practices and violence against children.

1.11 Dissertation outline

Chapter one is the introductory chapter of the dissertation provides an overview, highlighting the background, problem statement, research purpose, objectives, questions, significance, limitations, delimitations, and the outline. Chapter two provides an extensive review of literature, offering an insight into the efficacy of psychosocial support for vulnerable and orphaned children worldwide. It delves into the theoretical framework, shedding light on previous research relevant to the study. Chapter three is dedicated to outlining the methodology employed in the study, emphasizing the research design and tools for data collection. Chapter four presents result and analysis section amplifies the themes derived from the collected data. Chapter five serves as a culmination of the entire study, summarizing the findings outlined in chapter four, which also doubles as the dissertation's conclusion. The researcher proceeds to offer recommendations and identifies areas requiring further research, encapsulating the essence of the study and its implications for future endeavours.

CHAPTER 2

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

The chapter undertook a comprehensive review of pertinent literature concerning the efficacy of psychosocial support within the context of Epworth. Additionally, it delved into the theoretical framework relevant to the study's scope. Organized thematically, the literature review was structured in alignment with the research objectives, facilitating a cohesive exploration of the subject matter.

2.2 Theoretical framework

2.2.1 Social cognitive theory

The theoretical framework guiding this study draws upon the social cognitive theory, which was pioneered by Albert Bandura. According to Winters (2016), the social cognitive theory underscores the importance of observational learning, social reinforcement, and self-efficacy in shaping human behavior. Green and Peril (2009) note that his theory not only provides a comprehensive framework for understanding human behavior but also offers insights into predicting and modifying it. In addition, they elaborate that the social cognitive theory suggests individuals learn both behaviors and cognitive strategies through observing others' actions, with these acquisitions possible even without direct reinforcement. Moreover, they also highlight that a decrease in self-efficacy may lead to reduced motivation and an increased likelihood of giving up.

The social cognitive theory holds significant relevance to this study as it offers valuable insights into evaluating the effectiveness of psychosocial support interventions for orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth. By emphasizing observational learning and the role of caregivers in modeling behavior, the theory provides valuable guidance on how interventions can be structured to cater to the needs of these children. Moreover, the framework provided by the social cognitive theory can inform the design of psychosocial interventions aimed at empowering orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth, with a focus on enhancing their psychological well-being and facilitating social integration. The theory suggests that observing others and receiving psychosocial support can influence an individual's own desire to receive such support. It suggests that receiving positive reinforcement from others, such as praise or encouragement, can increase the likelihood that an individual will continue to engage in the behavior. This inform caregiver to reinforce good behavior among vulnerable children and orphans.

2.3 The state of psychosocial support in the Zimbabwe and what classifies a child into the group of orphaned and vulnerable children.

2.3.1 Orphaned and vulnerable children

According to Abashula and Ayele (2014), orphan and vulnerable children (OVC) are susceptible to a range of physiological, psychological, and social problems. Policy Digest (2022) further delineates vulnerable children as those whose rights remain unfulfilled, encompassing those with one or both parents deceased, children living with disabilities, those affected by HIV and AIDS, victims of abuse, working children, destitute children, and abandoned children. UNAIDS (2010) estimates that out of the 16.6 million children aged 0–17 who have lost one or both parents to AIDS, approximately 14.8 million reside in sub-Saharan Africa. Yeboah (2018) asserts that nearly sixty percent of orphaned and vulnerable children in

the country are a result of HIV/AIDS. These children encounter numerous challenges due to poverty and a lack of psychosocial support. Berry and Guthrie (2003) identify some of the problems they face, including hunger, limited access to healthcare and education, physical and psychological abuse, lack of affection, and negative community attitudes towards them.

2.3.2 PSS in Zimbabwe

In recent times, the country has faced food shortages, inflation, global economic challenges, and the COVID-19 pandemic, creating a difficult situation for orphaned and vulnerable children. According to UNICEF (2021) the noted factors have resulted in idiosyncratic shocks which affects the nurturing care of children because socioeconomic issues and raising poverty in the country increases the vulnerability of children and families. These circumstances have led to increased rates of school dropouts, gender-based violence, emotional stress, child labor, and violence against children. This is corroborated by UNICEF (2021), which reports that at least 28% of children aged 5-17 are engaged in work for survival in Epworth. These challenges have adverse effects on children's mental well-being and underscore the need for collaborative efforts to provide psychosocial support to orphaned and vulnerable children.

Psychosocial assistance serves as a resilience-building mechanism, offering a comprehensive approach to tackle the socioeconomic challenges encountered by orphaned and vulnerable children. Christopher and Mosha (2021) supports that psychosocial support plays a role in assisting the orphaned and vulnerable children to obtain birth certificates, medical assistances and other crucial aspects. In Zimbabwe the psychosocial support serves as a holistic approach to the needs of these children. Mavambo Orphan Care (2018) noted that apart from the educational support this group is brokenhearted due to the loss of parents, experience stigma and discrimination for various reasons and are experiencing emotional, physical and sexual

abuses. In Zimbabwe psychosocial support is there to address the basic needs of the children as well as the mental health aspects.

2.4 Factors affecting the wellbeing of the orphaned and vulnerable children.

2.4.1   Educational support and economic situations

Insufficient educational support presents a significant social challenge for orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth and other regions of Zimbabwe. This issue is largely rooted in the country's economic conditions, which often prevent caregivers from being able to afford school fees. Moreover, the increasing demands of the new curriculum exacerbate the situation, leading many of these children to drop out of school in search of alternative means of survival. Lemeyu (2022) The government has implemented the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) as a key intervention strategy to provide educational support to vulnerable children, enabling them to access basic education. Lemeyu (2022) also notes that BEAM offers assistance such as school fees, uniforms, textbooks, and sanitary wear to eligible orphaned and vulnerable children who are enrolled in public schools. However, it's important to note that children must be registered in public schools to qualify for these benefits.

2.4.2 Exploitation and lack of basic needs

The economic difficulties confronting orphans and vulnerable children also give rise to another perilous challenge: an increased susceptibility to exploitation and abuse. The absence of safety, psychological support, adequate nutrition, access to education, shelter, and nurturing care are among the factors that contribute to a child's vulnerability (Mutie, 2018). This situation often pushes children into scenarios of child labor and early marriage, where they are subjected to various forms of abuse and exploitation. Mutie (2018) goes on to highlight that some of the children are even coerced into prostitution and substance abuse as a means of survival and

coping with their hardships. These actions not only jeopardize the children's future but also perpetuate cycles of poverty.

2.4.3 Impacts of COVID 19 and malnutrition

The emergence of COVID-19 has profoundly affected both the social and economic landscape of Zimbabwe. Many people have experienced the loss of loved ones, including parents and relatives, leading to significant impacts on the mental health of the population, including orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs) (Goldberg et al., 2021). During the periods of isolation, access to educational and health services was limited, exacerbating behavioral, academic, scholastic, and emotional challenges (Turney, 2016). OVCs, who often rely on donations and support from caregivers and guardians, faced heightened difficulties during this global crisis as economies faltered and many lost their jobs, resulting in an increased need for humanitarian aid. Scholars agree that while teachers have made efforts to provide counselling to address children's psychological issues, their capacity is limited due to lack of qualifications and the pressures of their educational responsibilities (Lemeyu, 2022). It's crucial to ensure that children are provided with sufficient healthy food to support their overall functioning and concentration.

2.5 The interventions and benefit of psychosocial support for orphaned and vulnerable children toward the promotion and realization of self-actualization.

There are various psychosocial support interventions that can be used to address issues being faced by the OVCs in Epworth. These ranges from educational support, counselling, focus groups, capacity building, memorisation and child safe space. The interventions mentioned can be offered as specialized services, focused non-specialized support, community and family

supports, basic services, and security, depending on the stage the beneficiary is at. This is succinctly outlined by the Psychosocial Support (PSS) Interventions Triangle.
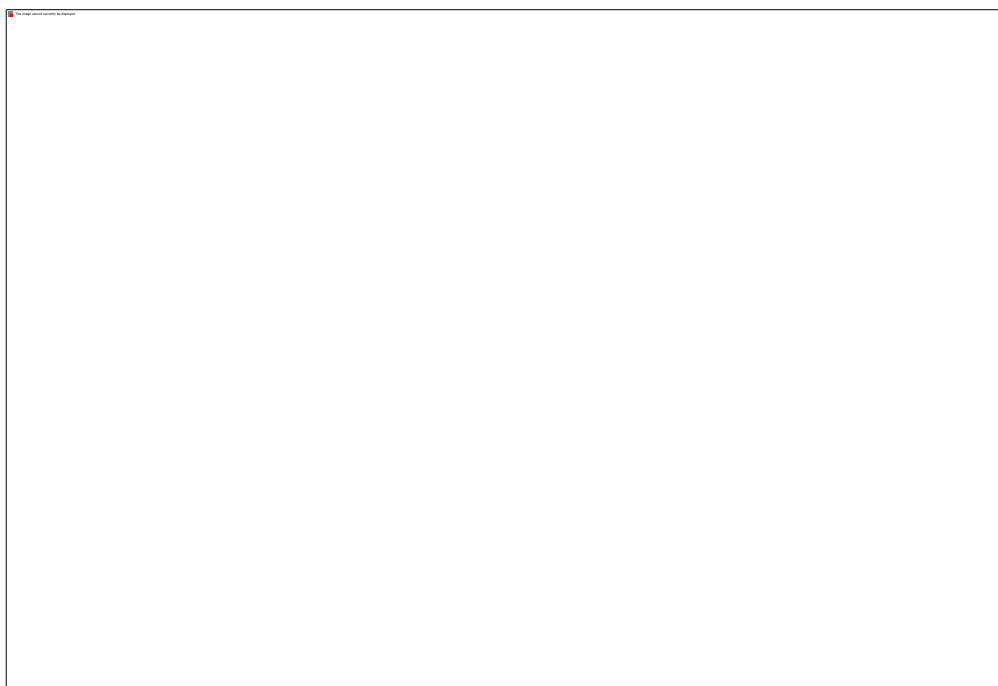
Source: Mental health and psychosocial support intervention pyramid in Inter Agency Standing Committee guideline (INEE, 2018).

2.5.1 Social considerations in basic services and security.

This model emphasizes the necessity of safeguarding the well-being of orphaned and vulnerable children by ensuring the provision of amenities that meet their day to day needs and protect them from maltreatment. These essential services encompass health care, water and sanitation, food distribution and nutrition, and shelter. Riggs (2018) stresses the critical importance of prioritizing these services when designing psychosocial interventions and advocating for the fulfillment of basic physical needs. All interactions with the affected population should prioritize considerations of their psychosocial well-being.

2.5.2 Community and family support

Community and family support serve as crucial intervention mechanisms for providing psychosocial support to vulnerable children. Family-oriented interventions are particularly regarded as very effective in promoting the psychological health of orphaned and vulnerable children. Research by Cuijpers et al. (2015) underscores the positive impact of family therapy and family-based interventions in alleviating mental health symptoms among vulnerable children. These interventions focus on enhancing parenting skills to foster better child-caregiver relationships and promote overall child well-being. Workshops such as positive parenting workshops, as highlighted by Barlow et al. (2016), play a significant role in improving parenting skills. By enhancing communication between caregivers and children, these workshops have a profound effect on the mental well-being of orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari.

2.5.3 Focused and non-specialized support

During a crisis, a minority of individuals are more susceptible to experiencing significant mental health challenges, ranging from mild to moderate disorders. These individuals require tailored interventions, which may be delivered on an individual, family, or group basis by skilled and qualified personnel or volunteers. Without such interventions, the recovery process from distress is likely to be prolonged, with an increased risk of developing severe psychological disorders. These interventions commonly involve counseling, memory work, support groups, and children's clubs. Mwoma and Pillay (2015) advocate for the importance of providing children with counseling, support groups, and clubs to address the discrimination and stigma they face daily, which often manifests in behavioral issues, low self-esteem, and difficulties in peer communication.

2.5.4 Specialized services

A portion of the vulnerable population might require specialized care for severe psychological issues, which could include individuals, families, or entire communities experiencing intense reactions to a crisis. This group encompasses those with pre-existing psychological conditions or tendencies towards such disorders. Professional psychological or psychiatric support may be necessary, often involving tailored care or intricate social interventions. Identifying the necessity for referral to higher levels of care typically arises from community-based psychosocial efforts led by organizations like the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies. Therefore, it's vital for those working in this domain to have a fundamental grasp of mental health and psychological disorders, along with knowledge of how and where to direct individuals in need of assistance.

2.6 PSS in community based organisations

Community based organisation plays a very important role in the delivery of psychosocial support which are designed for specific needs. These communities based organisations work closely with various stakeholders creating a supportive network that nurtures the well-being and development of children.

2.6.1 Referral and collaboration

Community based organisation have a strong referrals and collaboration with other organisations such as the healthcare facilities, schools and vocational training centres to ensure comprehensive support for the orphaned and vulnerable children. This is clearly evidenced by some organisation operating in Epworth such as Mavamba Orphan Care and Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care, they have strong connections with the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare and other organisations such as Justice for Children. This collaboration creating a

strong referral system for assisting orphaned and vulnerable children whose cases requires the services of these stakeholders. The community based organisations also have a strong collaboration with the care givers and the parents through parenting workshops, support groups and individual counselling to caregivers, helping them address their own mental health needs, develop positive parenting practices and create nurturing environments for the orphaned and vulnerable children under their care.

2.6.2 Educational support and life skills

Educational support and life skills training provided by the community based organisations helps children and vulnerable children access to quality education. These include scholarships, school enrolment assistance, tutoring and study groups. Life skills equip children with practical skills such as communication, financial literacy, problem solving and vocational skills which improves their overall development. However, the community based organisations cannot provide the educational support to all the orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth. This is evidenced by the girls' educational support program at Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care that can only provide for forty vulnerable and orphaned adolescent girls out of the estimated total of the vulnerable children and orphans in Domboramwari. This implies that even though there are a number of CBOs in Epworth providing the educational support programs, they are not enough to cater for all the orphaned and vulnerable children in the community.

2.6.3 Counselling and psychosocial support assessment

Counselling and psychosocial assessment is offered by the trained personnel within the organisation to the individual and groups in need of these services. The conduct psychosocial assessment to understand the specific needs and challenges faced by each child and develop

the appropriate intervention plan. The counselling sessions provides a safe space for the children to discuss their concern, receive their emotional support and learn coping strategies.

2.6.4 Recreational programs, peer support groups and awareness activities

The community-based organisation plays a significant role in improved mental health through the provision of platforms for children to engage in positive and enjoyable experiences. This is done through group activities and recreational programs such as music, sports, art and craft, cultural events. These activities promote interaction, teamwork, self-expression and emotional well-being. Young Africa is one of the organisations that launches some of these activities and sporting competitions for the children and youths. Peer support and mentorship programs facilitated by the community-based organisations were older or trained volunteers provides guidance, encouragement and positive role modelling to young people. These programs include father to father or mother to mother peer groups which are conducted at SYCC for the adolescent mothers and fathers who are victims of child marriages.

Organisations conduct outreach and awareness activities raise awareness about the issues affecting orphaned and vulnerable children. The community based organisations conduct workshops, community meetings awareness programs to reduce stigma, educate community members the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children and promote supportive environment. These meetings also discuss of some intervention strategies to address issues affecting the orphaned and vulnerable children.

2.7 Impacts of PSS on OVCs

2.7.1 Improved Mental Health and Well-Being

Intervention programs focused on psychosocial support have made a substantial difference in enhancing the mental health and general well-being of orphaned and vulnerable children in

Epworth. These programs provide access to counseling, support groups, and other interventions that help children cope with grief, trauma, and other challenges they face. According to Betancourt (2014), children engaged in a community-based psychosocial support program exhibited reduced levels of depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress when compared to a control group. This is because they have safe spaces where they can share openly share their experiences and enhance their coping skills that enables them to make informed decisions.

2.7.2 Enhanced Social Support and Connectedness

Psychosocial support initiatives connect these children to caring adults and peer support networks. This helps build their social support systems and sense of belonging, which is critical for healthy child development. Cluver & Orkin, 2009 are of the view that children with stronger social support networks demonstrate better emotional, behavioral, and academic outcomes. It is evidenced by children in a healthy family set up, they demonstrate family informed values and they have coping mechanisms to emotional stress.

2.7.3 Increased Educational Attainment

Studies have found that psychosocial support programs in Epworth have contributed to improved school attendance, academic performance, and overall educational outcomes for orphaned and vulnerable children. This helps break the cycle of poverty and provides them with greater opportunities. Guo, (2012) noted that children who participated in a psychosocial support program were more likely to enroll in and complete secondary education. Through the counselling session and the peer groups children are encouraged to strive for their own good as they pursue their goals and are capacitated with coping strategies as well as improved self-esteem and confidence which are essential elements to success.

2.8 Summary of the chapter

This chapter provides an overview of literature from multiple scholars, detailing their perspectives on the impact of psychosocial support on orphaned and vulnerable children. It presents a comprehensive summary of scholars' viewpoints regarding the challenges faced by these children in Epworth, offering insights into various aspects of their experiences. Additionally, the chapter discusses intervention mechanisms that can be employed to effectively address the psychosocial needs of these children.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter serves as a guide for the study, detailing the procedures, tools, and techniques employed to address the research questions. It covers the research design, population, sampling methods, data collection methods, and ethical considerations utilized in conducting the study. Additionally, it outlines the steps taken to ensure validity and reliability.

3.2 Research philosophy

The researcher adopted the constructivist research philosophy, which, according to Creswell (2014), posits that knowledge is socially constructed and shaped by individual experiences and perspectives. The constructivist research philosophy can provide a deeper understanding of the subjective experiences and meanings associated with the psychosocial support mechanisms. The philosophy emphasise that knowledge is actively constructed by individuals through their interactions with others and the environment, this implies that the effectiveness of the psychosocial support mechanisms is constructed by the orphaned and vulnerable children, their caregivers, social workers and other professionals involved. Mogashoa (2014) highlights that constructivism is an epistemological theory positing that humans derive knowledge and meaning through the interaction between their experiences and their ideas.

This approach allows for a more holistic exploration of the orphaned and vulnerable children's subjective realities and can inform the development of interventions and improvements in support services.

3.3 Research methodology

The study adopted a qualitative research approach. Research methodology is very significant since it helps in the research to meet its objectives. Leedy and Ormrod (2014) define qualitative research as an approach that yields rich data about real-life individuals and situations. Johnson and Christensen (2012) emphasize that qualitative research entails gathering non-numerical primary data, such as words and pictures, by the researcher. The researcher selected this approach to assess the efficacy of psychosocial systems in supporting vulnerable children and orphans.

3.4 Research Design

Macko (2016) defines a research design as a detailed blueprint for conducting research, with the aim of exerting control over factors that may influence the validity of the results. This research will be guided by descriptive research design which is described by (Pandey, 2015) as an approach which has ability to describe and summarize the attitudes, behaviours, characteristics and experiences of a particular population or phenomenon. The researcher chose this approach because it can provide valuable insights into the current state of psychosocial support and the experiences of orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth.

3.5 Population and Sampling

According to Ranjit (2011), the target population refers to the group of people that one aims to make assumptions about. In this study, the population consisted of both the employees and beneficiaries of the psychosocial support program at Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care in Domboramwari, Epworth. The beneficiaries include adolescent girls and boys between the age of thirteen and eighteen years who lost one or both parents, child headed families and those who are victims of abuse and early marriages. Bhardwaj (2019) describes sampling as the

methodological process of selecting a sample from either an individual or a large population. The sampling technique that was used in the study is called purposive sampling techniques. Barbie (2010) characterizes purposive sampling as the deliberate selection of a sample based on knowledge about the population, its components, and the study's objectives. This approach, classified as non-probability sampling, involves intentional decisions regarding the inclusion of individuals in the study sample. This technique was used when choosing the employees at Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care due to their knowledge and experience in issues related to the effects of psychosocial support in Epworth. The sample for this study consists of twenty participants which include the Director of the organisation, two of the organisation's counsellors, the senior programs manager, the beneficiaries and some of the peer mentors from the organisation. The researcher will carry out interviews with the director, the counsellors as well as the projects manager. The semi-structured interviews with the peer mentors as well as the group discussions with the beneficiaries of the organisation. This sampling technique is justifiable to the study since only representatives from each group are to participate.

3.6 Sample

The sample for this study consists of twenty participants including the Director of the organisation, two counsellors, the Senior Programs Manager, 10 beneficiaries of the psychosocial program and 6 peer mentors from the organization.

3.7 Data Collection Methods

Data collection encompasses a systematic process of gathering information from various sources, which is essential for conducting research. They are described Munir (2017) as tools that are used to collect data. The researcher used sources include semi structured interviews, interviews and focus group discussions.

3.7.1 Semi-Structured Interviews

The study utilized semi-structured interviews to collect data from the 6 peer mentors at Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care. According to Liamputtong (2011) a semi-structured interview is an interactive and flexible research method that combines predetermined questions that unearth in-depth response from participants. The data collection method allows the researcher to uncover insights that might be missing in structured interviews. The method generates detailed, nuanced and rich data.

3.7.2 Key Informant Interviews

Peersman (2014) highlights that key informant interviews are utilized to engage key individuals in the study. These informants are individuals who possess significant knowledge about the subject matter and are willing to provide information impartially. The researcher chose key informant interviews because they involve interviewing experts within a particular area to provide insight on the nature of problems that are associated in that area and to get recommendations on how to address the challenges. The key informant interviews were used to interviews the Director of Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care, the program's manager and the organisation's counsellor. These participants are of a great advantage to the study since they can offer unique perspectives that cannot be captured through other means of data collection. They can also assist the student to identify more themes and issues related to the topic. Key informants' interviews provide unique and insightful data to enhance the research study.

3.7.3 Focus group discussions

The researcher employed focus group discussions to gather data from the beneficiaries of the Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care program. The researcher chose focus group discussions because they allow the researcher to gain the views of different people about a particular topic.

Ochieng et al. (2018) underscore that focus group discussions represent a commonly utilized qualitative approach to achieve a comprehensive understanding of social issues. This method aims to gather data from a deliberately selected group of individuals rather than from a statistically representative sample of the broader population.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

The researcher took measures to ensure the reliability and validity of the research instruments. Reliability and validity are used to ensure that research findings are accurate, credible, and applicable. The process of validating and ensuring the reliability of research instruments is crucial as it helps prevent researchers from making errors. Middleton (2023) highlights that reliability and validity serve as concepts used to assess the quality of research and the extent to which a method or test accurately measures a phenomenon. Taderhoost (2016) suggests that reliability pertains to the stability of a research instrument, indicating whether it can consistently yield the same results when repeated. On the other hand, validity refers to how well the collected data encompasses the actual area of investigation.

The researcher ensured the validity of the research by clearly defining the research objectives to ensure they encompassed the area of study. Additionally, the researcher verified that the questions in the interview guides and focus group discussions aligned with the study's objectives. The instruments were also submitted to the supervisor to ensure that they were up to standard. On the other hand, the researcher also ensured the reliability of research instruments by making sure that all the questions and instructions for the interviews and focus group discussions are clear and straight forward to avoid ambiguity.

3.9 Data presentation and analysis

Pandey (2015) describes data analysis as a process encompassing several closely related activities, including establishing categories, applying these categories to raw data through coding, tabulation, and subsequently drawing statistical inferences. According to Spicer (2004), raw data will be validated, edited, and cleaned shortly after the interviews are conducted, and data analysis involves reducing accumulated data to manageable and understandable information. The data was analyses using thematic analysis. Data will be presented through the use of themes for a clear presentation. Narrative analysis and descriptive statistics are to analyse and summarize data.

3.10 Pilot testing

Brown (2021) emphasized that pilot testing is a critical step in the research process, enabling the researcher to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of their research design before conducting the full study. During pilot testing, the researcher should be able to identify any weaknesses in their methodology and make necessary adjustments to ensure the success of the study. The researcher tested the interviews and focus group discussions guides on a group of students to check their feasibility and effectiveness in gathering data.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations are a set of principles that review the code of conduct in research practice, (Sternberg 2004). When carrying out a research, ethical considerations should be followed as a way of protecting participants and are guided by two main ethical considerations which are confidentiality and consent. Informed consent implies that the research is guided by ethical principles that respects the human rights of participation which encourages the true finding of the study. The participants to the study are to participate freely with one's consent,

without being forced or pressurized (Tajvidi, 2015). The researcher provided a detailed explanation of the study's objectives to the participants prior to initiating the interviews and focus group discussions. Consent was obtained from all participants before conducting the interviews. Additionally, the researcher ensured the confidentiality of the research proceedings throughout the entire process.

3.12 Summary

The chapter delineated the research methodology employed by the researcher for the study. It detailed the study's population, sample, and sampling methods, as well as the data collection approach utilized. Furthermore, the chapter addressed concerns regarding the reliability and validity of research instruments, outlined data analysis techniques, and underscored the ethical standards adhered to throughout the research process.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the data collected from the study on the effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms for orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari, Epworth. The data is organized thematically, aligning with the research objectives of the study.

4.2 Demographic data

The study comprised 20 participants who actively engaged in the research. Among them were the Director of the organization, two counselors, the Senior Programs Manager, 10 beneficiaries of the psychosocial program, and 6 peer mentors from the Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care organization. The table below provides an overview of the gender distribution among the research participants.

4.2.1 Gender of the participants

Table 1: Gender of research participants

GENDER	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
MALE	7	35%
FEMALE	13	65%

Table 1 above shows the gender distribution of research participants. The findings revealed that among the 20 participants 7 were male and 13 were female which translated to 35% and 65% representation respectively. This revealed that the majority of participants in the study

were female. From the results, one can note that women participated more than men because the organization used as a case study deals with problems affecting girls and women.

4.2.2 Age range of the participants

Table 2: Age of research participants

Age range	Number of people	Percentage
18-25	14	70%
25-40	5	25%
40-70	1	5%
70 and above	0	0%

Table 2 above presents the age range of participants involved in both the interviews and the focus group discussions. The results indicate that 70% of the participants fell within the age bracket of 18-25 years. This demographic predominance can be attributed to the fact that a significant portion of the participants consisted of beneficiaries of the psychosocial programs and peer counselors, who are typically young individuals.

4.3 The need for psychosocial support systems in Epworth

The need for psychosocial support in Epworth has proven to be a necessity for the survival of the orphaned and vulnerable children as well as to maintain peace within the society. The interviews and focus group discussions conducted by the researcher revealed what psychosocial support entail.

The need for psychosocial support in Epworth has proven to be a necessity for the survival of the orphaned and vulnerable children as well as to maintain peace within the society. The respondents defined psychosocial support as the love, care and support that a person gets from the community and family that capitates to cope with challenges in life and to be able to make life informed decisions. They further explained that love is the emotional support that encourages bonding that care is the provision and sense of security that goes along with love. They highlighted that support refers to the physical and mental provisions of life such as food shelter guidance and counselling. The three aspects of psychosocial support cannot be separated from each other since they work hand in hand to produce good results.

The respondents expressed strong support for the necessity of providing psychosocial support services (PSS) for the residents. During the focus group discussion, one participant emphasized that neglecting the psychosocial needs of orphaned children in Domboramwari could lead to it resembling a second Sodom. This remark showed the importance of psychosocial support systems in Epworth. The participants in the structured interviews, the key informant interviews and the focused group discussions all concurred that the behaviour of young people and adolescents in this area required the intervention of the PSS. They pointed out that there has been a rise in deviant and illegal activities such as child prostitution, drug abuse, high crime rates, child marriages, child abuse, violence against children and women, suicide and some are even engaging into rituals. These has exposed the orphaned and vulnerable children to exploitation, mental health issues and increased poverty levels.

4.4 Challenges faced by orphans and vulnerable children.

The study brought to the forefront the tangible obstacles confronting orphaned and vulnerable children within the Domboramwari, Epworth community. Among the challenges emphasized by research participants were,

4.4.1 Poverty

The economic instability has greatly influenced a series of problems being faced by the orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari. One of the key informants noted the following,

> *Ever since the COVID 19 pandemic era most of us lost our jobs and roadside markets were no longer running due to the restriction. It affected us the parents and our children too. We could not afford the online learn and even after the pandemic some of the children including mine dropped out of school due to lack of funds. In our community many children were sold into prostitution by senior and retired commercial sex workers for peanut. The pandemic feels like we were going back to the 2008 era were our children were being exploited for a packet of biscuits and basic commodities were scarce*

This clearly shows that the provision of psychosocial support is necessary for the wellbeing of the society and the children. Due to poverty young children were sold into prostitution as they earned meagre amounts of money at the expense of the seller who got hefty amounts for the transactions. During the focus group discussions, participants underscored poverty as a significant hurdle for orphans and vulnerable children in their community. They emphasized the necessity of establishing safety nets to ensure access to basic needs for these children.

4.4.2 Exploitation and abuse

The state of poverty in Domboramwari has increased the risks of abuse and exploitation of children. Mutie (2018) is of the view that the absence of psychosocial support needs for the child defines their vulnerability. The participants noted that children are forced to engage into child labour, child prostitution and crime as survival strategies. However, these activities have exposed them to abuse and exploitation. This is clearly evidenced by one of the participants

who shared her story stating that she was raped by an unknown person and had a child when she was twelve years old. The following are her remarks,

I was raped and had a child at the age of twelve, it happened when my parents had lost their jobs I and my sisters dropped out of school since they could not afford it anymore. We stated to help them gather plastic containers for recycling where I met a man who appears to be a good Samaritan, he helped me to gather some plastics so that when I pass by it would be easy for me. One day the man took me to secret place where he claimed he had gathered some containers, he raped me and run away from that day I never saw him and I later discovered that I was pregnant.

This clearly shows that poverty has a great impact on the lives of the vulnerable children since the community does not have fear to abuse the vulnerable children. This proves that there is a great need for the provision of psychosocial support intervention for the vulnerable and orphaned children in Epworth.

4.4.3 Mental health

The research has pointed out the need for psychosocial support for the orphaned and vulnerable children due to the mental health issues associated with being vulnerable and orphaned. Participants noted that children tend to have behavioural changes due to the discrimination, grieving and abuse. Winters, (2016) is of the view that children learn new behaviors by observing and imitating others, and that these behaviors are strengthened by the reactions of others with the social environment. The respondents noted that children who are abused and discriminated will learn and develop a behavior of carelessness and some become aggressive towards a certain group of people. This shows that the attitude and behavior of vulnerable children can be contributed to their living conditions and the environment they live in.

The participants of the study highlighted that the discrimination and marginalization of orphans and vulnerable causes them to be aggressive towards other people. Breur (2017) notes that the frustration aggression theory states that if a person is angry, they may end up being aggressive to other people. One of the beneficiaries affirmed this, by highlighting that she enrolled into a martial arts club to be strong enough to fight all the men who will try to bully in the future. She highlighted that she lost her parents at a tender age because armed robbers broke into her house and killed her parents. Psychosocial support is important because it helps orphans and vulnerable children to make informed decisions. It also helps them to deal with the trauma they encountered so that they can lead fulfilling lives.

4.5 Strategies used to deliver PSS in Domboramwari

The delivery of psychosocial support in Domboramwari has been done through the use of different strategies which is implemented by the case organisation. The research explored these strategies and how they are delivered for the wellbeing of the orphaned and vulnerable children.

> *Case assessment is a strategy that we use here as an organisation as the first conduct with our clients. It is divided into client assessment, counselling, the home visits, the referral system and the professional counselling. This helps the organisation to be fully informed with the practical knowledge about the client and we will be able to know how we are going intervene.*

The research shows that case assessment is a strategy used by the organisation to trace the needs of their clients and to determine the best strategy of delivering psychosocial support. The respondent clearly shows that this can be done in different stages. This allows for effective case management and that the delivery of correct services.

Another respondent clearly noted that,

to ensure holistic approach and integration we have positive parenting and positive

masculinity strategies that as mechanisms for responding to the challenges being faced

by the children in Domboramwari.

The findings show that the organisation does not focus on the child only but also on the parents and guardians. This ensures a complete resolution of the challenges faced by OVCs through raising the capacities of those living around them.

Another participant pointed out that,

Financial literacy is a capacity building strategy used to help those victims of child

marriage and other interested beneficiaries that empowers them with life skills that

maybe useful for their survival. These also are skills that can be used as an integration

strategy for victim children.

The findings that that apart from counselling and other noted strategies the organisation considers the of integration strategies as part of the psychosocial support intervention. It is provided for both the beneficiaries and the young people who have been victim early marriage.

One of the key informants noted that,

The organisation provides educational support to at least forty adolescent girls.

Through the case assessment we consider the eligibility of a child to be on the

educational support program. There are other cases that needs more than just

educational support, some needs food and clothing and other things so the organisation

will have to mobilise resources to assist this particular group.

The above remarks show that educational support programs cannot be separated from the psychosocial support intervention strategies. It also revealed that the organisation has a limited number of the educational support beneficiaries. The research findings are in agreement with

the mental health and psychosocial support intervention pyramid (INNE 2018) in chapter 2 which outlines the intervention strategies of PSS. This is evidenced with the response from the participants who also outlined the similar strategies that were highlighted in the pyramid. The study findings showed that basic services are provided to the clients who are found eligible through the process of case assessment and on the pyramid, it is the first stage of psychosocial support intervention. The inclusion of the family and community's support is clearly shown by the collective efforts by the organisation in assisting parents through the positive parenting and masculinity strategies. This strategy plays a crucial role in the integration process of these children. The participants also noted that the clients and beneficiaries of the organisation are also provided with the basic counselling interventions. These includes the peer support groups children's clubs among other focused and non-specialised support to overcome daily challenges they encounter on a daily basis, (Mwoma and Pillay 2015). Referral systems is another strategy that offers specialised service to the client.

4.6 The effects of PSS mechanisms in Domboramwari

4.6. 1 Successful educational support for the beneficiaries

The PSS program in Domboramwari has been an effective in providing educational provision to the orphans and vulnerable children in society. Through the system the orphaned and vulnerable children's lives have transformed completely. This is clearly evidenced by one of the beneficiaries whose dreams were fulfilled through the organisation's educational support program. The following were her remarks,

> *I am a beneficiary of the girls' scholarship program. The PSS interventions has help*
> *me throughout my educational journey, build my confidence and self-esteem. Today I*
> *am a successful lawyer and I can stand proudly to say I am a beneficiary of the*
> *psychosocial support program.*

The program does not only provide the educational assistance with fees and uniform only but also ensures that the children's self-esteem and confidence are enhanced.

4.6.2 Informed and capacitated children

The capacity building workshops carried out by the organisation has been sustainably productive. This is evidenced by the increased self-employed population and locally produced product which eliminate poverty and idleness among the young people in the community. The program has also been educating its beneficiaries and the community about their rights and what to do if they are violated. This is clearly stated by one of the participants who said that,

PSS programs helped me to know my values as a girl child and capacitated me with the knowledge on the rights of the girl child. The counselling sessions assisted me to get over my past experience and I can make clear decisions and I have gained my confidence. I can bake and produce detergent products through the capacity building workshop facilitates by the organisation.

4.6.3 Improved parental skills

The key informants noted that they used the positive parenting and masculinity strategies to address psychosocial support needs of orphaned and vulnerable children. They also highlighted that that the psychosocial support strategies that their organisation uses are effective in assisting children, parents and guardians to realise their potentials.

4.8 Discussion of findings

In Epworth, psychosocial support (PSS) intervention strategies have been employed as means of promoting peacebuilding and facilitating reintegration. However, their effectiveness is constrained by limitations and high costs, rendering them accessible to only a small segment of

the community. For instance, educational opportunities have been extended to forty adolescent girls, a mere fraction compared to the total population of orphaned and vulnerable children in Epworth. Both government basic educational assistance and organizational scholarship programs are insufficient to cater to the needs of these children in Domboramwari. There are indications of favouritism in beneficiary selection processes within the organization, as some participants in the study shared surnames with beneficiaries, raising concerns about transparency. Additionally, poverty presents a significant barrier to the success of PSS initiatives, with many residents relying on short-term income sources such as commercial sex work and criminal activities. Consequently, they are reluctant to engage in life skills projects. Notably, the organization primarily sponsors a limited number of girls, leaving orphaned and vulnerable boys neglected in the support framework.

4.7 Summary

The chapter gave an outline of the data gathered regarding the efficacy of psychosocial support mechanisms for the OVCs in Domboramwari. The findings enhanced comprehension of challenges faced by OVCs that necessitate PSS interventions, as well as illuminated various strategies employed to tackle these issues in Domboramwari. It emphasized the effects of psychosocial support mechanisms on the well-being of orphaned and vulnerable children in the area.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The chapter offers a comprehensive presentation of the summary, conclusions, recommendations, and areas for further research. Its goal is to provide an in-depth examination of the research findings, explore their implications, and propose future avenues of study pertaining to the effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms for the well-being of orphaned and vulnerable children.

5.2 Summary

The research sought to assess the effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms in addressing challenges and needs of the vulnerable and orphaned children Domboramwari. The study identified the challenges and needs of the orphaned and vulnerable children, the strategies being used to implement the mechanisms and assessed the effectiveness of these strategies. Below are the fundamental discoveries of the research,

The findings discovered that the economy plays a crucial role in the wellbeing of the orphaned and vulnerable children. It is clear that the lack of basic needs and proper parenting has been affecting the growth of these children. Economic instability has also affected the mental health of the orphaned and the vulnerable children as highlighted by the research findings. They are orphans and vulnerable children are exploited and abused which results in them transferring their aggression to other people developing a violent and careless behaviour. The research clearly shows that the environment in which a child is raised can nurture their behaviour.

The research identified a number of strategies being used in Domboramwari to address the psychosocial support need. The community-based organisations noted that the environment on the behaviour of these children. They employed mechanisms that are holistic and inclusive in

nature. The organisation also provides educational support programs which is a basic right for every child. They have the continuous counselling sessions with the children and they conduct capacity building workshops. The guardians and parents are taken through the positive parenting and positive masculinity programs. This is to ensure that the environment that the child lives in promotes growth. The findings observed the effectiveness of psychosocial support through some of the success stories of the children who reached their self-actualisation stage and managed to excel in their goals. Psychosocial support aim is to build a child that is fully capacitated with parental values and teaching. The discussion of findings outlined the primary concepts of the research study concerning the challenges encountered by orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs), the strategies employed to address their psychosocial needs, and the efficacy of these approaches in nurturing well-informed children in Domboramwari. These findings will have some contributions to the existing knowledge on the effectiveness of psychosocial support to the orphaned and vulnerable children.

5.3 Conclusions

The research offered valuable insight into the efficacy of psychosocial support mechanisms in mitigating the challenges experienced by orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari. The study came up with the following conclusions:

PSS mechanisms play crucial role in addressing the needs of the orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari. They provide both social emotional and psychological support as noted in the research. These helps the children to cope with the challenges they face and be able to make life informed choices.

The implementation of PSS programs in Domboramwari has shown some promising improvement on the wellbeing of the children. The programs have promoted a nurturing

environment for them through the positive parenting and positive masculinity programs which promote the positive development of the children and encourages their self-actualisation.

The presence of trained experts such as the social workers and counsellors in the organisation and other stake holders is essential in the delivery of effective psychosocial support to the children. Their skills enhance the implementation strategies to specifically address the needs of the orphaned vulnerable children.

The collaboration and coordination of various stakeholders such as the government agencies and other community-based organisation plays very important roles in the successful implantation of the PSS implementation mechanisms. Their partnership facilitates sharing of resources and other ways for sustainable ways to support the orphaned and vulnerable children.

5.4 Recommendations

The recommendations outlined below stem from the study and are suggested to enhance the delivery and implementation of psychosocial support mechanisms aimed at addressing the needs and challenges of orphaned and vulnerable children.

- Continuous awareness efforts should be implemented to diminish stigma and discrimination.
- The psychosocial support programs should be expanded and strengthened.
- There should be enhance capacity building trainings and professional development opportunities for the individuals working in this field.
- Advocate for policies and legislation that prioritize the rights and the wellbeing of the orphaned and vulnerable children.
- Conducting continuous research, monitoring, evaluation and assessing the effectiveness of the psychosocial support programs will help to identify areas for improvement and be able to measure the outcomes.

5.5 Areas for further research

The study provides valuable insights into the effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms in Domboramwari for orphaned and vulnerable children. The findings suggest several areas for further research. One potential area is to examine the involvement of parents and caregivers in PSS programs and investigate how their participation contributes to the successful and sustainable implementation of psychosocial support intervention strategies in Epworth. Another promising avenue for future research is to explore the influence of cultural factors on the design and implementation of psychosocial support mechanisms. This research could investigate how cultural beliefs, values, and practices shape the effectiveness of psychosocial support and identify culturally appropriate mechanisms to meet the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children. Additionally, there is a need for further research on the impacts of psychosocial support programs on the mental health outcomes of orphaned and vulnerable children. This research could focus on how these interventions influence the prevalence of mental health disorders, symptoms of trauma, and emotional well-being.

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DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

CHAPTER 3 SEMI STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE

DATE........................

INTRODUCTION

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Lisah Loki, a final year student at Bindura University of Science Education, studying a Bachelor's Degree in Peace and Governance. I'm currently carrying out a research project entitled, **"EFFECTIVENESS OF PYSCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN DOMBORAMWARI".** In view of this investigation, may l request you to be part of this study by answering the questions. This research will be confidential and it's for educational purposes only. The purpose of this research is to understand the effects of psychosocial support interventions toward self-actualisation of the orphaned and vulnerable children. Your views and contributions will be sincerely appreciated.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

Gender……………Male/Female

Age……………….

Qualification

………………………………………………………………………………..

……………………………………………………………………………………

……………….……………………………………………………………………

……………………………….

1. Tell me about yourself and what motivated you to be part of the organization?

2. What are the challenges being faced by the orphaned and vulnerable children in your community?

3. How are these challenges affecting orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari?

4. Do they receive any kind of assistance from relatives?

5. How did you get to know about the psychosocial support program by Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care?

6. What impact does psychosocial support have on the orphaned and vulnerable children?

7. How is PSS services delivered to the orphaned and vulnerable children?

8. Do you have strategies to helps these children to reintegrate into the society and reconcile with people who had neglected neglected them?

9. How can you rate the effectiveness of PSS on the lives of OVC in your community?

Signature…………….

Date………………………….

Interview Guide

RESEARCH INSTRUMENT: INTERVIEW

DATE.................................

INTRODUCTION

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Lisah Loki a final year student at Bindura University of Science Education, studying a Bachelor's Degree in Peace and Governance. I'm currently pursuing a research project entitled, **"Effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms for the orphaned and vulnerable children Domboramwari"**. In view of this investigation, may l request you to be part of this study by answering the questions? This research will be confidential and it's for educational purposes only. Your views and contributions will be sincerely appreciated.

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

GENDER_____

QUALIFICATIONS

_____

_____

_____

Interview Questions

Topic. Effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms to the orphaned and vulnerable children in Domboramwari, Epworth.

1. What are the problems being faced by orphaned and vulnerable children Domboramwari?

2. What might be the possible causes for these problems?

3. How are the problems noted above affecting their lives?

4. Do you have psychosocial support mechanisms you use as an organization to address issues affecting orphaned and vulnerable children in this community?

5. Has psychosocial support been able to address issues affecting OVCs?

6. Do these mechanisms help children towards self-actualization?

7. Are there any efforts by the government to assist the psychosocial support program in Domboramwari?

8. What are the measures that can be implemented to reduce the challenges being faced by orphaned and vulnerable children?

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

DATE.................................

INTRODUCTION

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Lisah Loki a final year student at Bindura University of Science Education, studying a Bachelor's Degree in Peace and Governance. I'm currently pursuing a research project entitled, **"Effectiveness of psychosocial support mechanisms for the orphaned and vulnerable children Domboramwari"**. In view of this investigation, may l request you to be part of this study by answering the questions? This research will be confidential and it's for educational purposes only. Your views and contributions will be sincerely appreciated.

QUESTIONS

1. What are problems being faced by children in Epworth?
2. How are these problems affecting the livelihoods in Epworth community?
3. Does these have an impact on the society?
4. What are the psychosocial support being implemented by the organization to address problems being faced by OVCs in Epworth?
5. How effective are the noted mechanisms?
6. Are there any areas you noted needs improvement and change?

PARTICIPANTS' INFORMATION

signature	Gender	qualifications

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

RESEARCH PROJECT CORRECTION

STUDENT NAME. *LISAH LOKI*

SIGNATURE. *LLoki* .... DATE *23/09/24*

SUPERVISOR. *K. I. Mhuri*

SIGNATURE. *[signature]* .... DATE *23/09/24*

CHAIR PERSON SIGNATURE *[signature]* *25/09/2024*