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TOPIC: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES FACED BY OVC IN ACQUIRING BIRTH CERTIFICATES. A CASE OF RUSIKE SUBURB, MARONDERA.

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The department board of examiners is satisfied that this dissertation report meets the examination requirements and therefore I recommend to Bindura University to accept this research project by Elizabeth Makamba titled: **AN ASSESSMENT OF THE MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES FACED BY OVC IN ACQUIRING BIRTH CERTIFICATES. A CASE OF RUSIKE SUBURB, MARONDERA**, in partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science, Honours Degree in Social work.

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Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to my mother Ms A Makomo, for the unwavering support emotionally, financially and spiritually throughout the course of my writing. My mother laid the foundation for my education and without her I may not have made it this far.

Abstract

The aim of this study is to assess the measures being implemented by the Zimbabwean government to address the challenges faced by Orphans and Vulnerable Children to acquire birth certificates in Marondera District, specifically in Rusike suburb. The objectives of the study were to identify the negative impacts faced by unregistered Orphans and Vulnerable Children in their lives, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the government measures to address the challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates in Rusike suburb and to identify ways to improve child birth registration in Rusike suburb. Qualitative Research methodology was used in this study thus unstructured interviews and key informant interviews were used as Research methods. The data was presented and analyzed using thematic data analysis. The basic needs approach was used as the theoretical framework. The study revealed that OVCs without birth certificates faces multiple challenges such as less access to social services, social marginalization, human rights violations, psycho-social problems and less access to birth registration. The study showed that the government has put in place various measures to address the challenges being faced by OVCs in acquiring birth registration which includes mobile birth registration, free birth registration, decentralization of birth registration points and removal of birth registration requirements. According to the study the measures by the government has improved the birth registration process but still there are some setbacks that include parents' reluctance and lack of funding. It emerged that education awareness, proper funding, monitoring and evaluation can improve child birth registration. The study recommended that child birth registration needs to be ensured at any cost considering the fact that it has become a human right issue lack of birth means double trouble

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Abbreviations

OVC- Orphans and Vulnerable Children

UNICEF- United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

The reasons behind the challenges faced by Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) to obtain birth certificates in Rusike suburb and Zimbabwe at large can be complex. The aim of this study is to assess the measures being implemented by the Zimbabwean government to address the challenges faced by Orphans and Vulnerable Children to acquire birth certificates in Marondera District, specifically in Rusike suburb. This chapter clearly gives the background of the study, problem statement, and justification of the study, research objectives and questions and definition of key terms....

1.2 Background of study

The history of registering births in Europe dates back to 1334, when important events and papers were first recorded in Christian churches as a result of ad hoc practices. One of the first registers was kept in France. This was mostly done for accounting reasons and to schedule events like baptisms and burials. Churches served as the representatives of the civil government at that time because there was no longer a distinction between church and state. Up until the sixteenth century, when parish registration grew in most European countries, uninterrupted records of registration seem to be rare (Garenne, 2011). The Council of Trent mandated birth registration in 1563, so birth registration in Europe advanced significantly from the recording of events in parish registers (Garenne, 2011).

According to UNICEF (2018), birth registration rates are high throughout Europe, with estimates ranging from 99 to 100 percent, indicating that every kid under the age of five must have a birth certificate. For instance, European countries like Britain have high completion rates for Civil Vital Registration statistics, according to the United Nations Statistics Division's

2015 report. The statelessness index, an online tool that evaluates birth registration rules, laws, and practices in European countries, has been shown by UNICEF (2017) to provide information regarding a person's connection to the state. Without a connection to the state, a person is deemed invisible and unable to obtain any services because they are not recognized by the state.

In Southern Africa, birth registration began to take shape during the colonial era. The legal requirements were unfavourable to Africans because some only required non-Africans to register their children's births. Birth registration remained optional in several southern African nations after independence because post-colonial governments continued to apply colonial regulations (Plan Australia, 2015). This indicates that the long-standing regional issue of child non-birth registration. However, the majority of the states reviewed their legislation, and the revised laws' provisions shifted in favour of the majority in the sense that everyone now has to register for their births.

According to Mudede (2005), Zimbabwe's origins are in the colonial era and it was created exclusively for non-Africans. This indicates that the white minority benefited from the legislative laws that were initiated. For instance, the Births and Death Registration Act (Chapter 30) stipulated that while birth registration was required for non-Africans, it was not required for Africans. This demonstrates that colonial policies that were segregatory in nature contributed to the lack of birth registration among black people in Zimbabwe. Following achieving independence, birth registration became mandatory for everyone and underwent improvements. The Birth and Death Registration Act No.11 of 1986 was started by the post-colonial government, and it encouraged all citizens to record births. This demonstrates that the aforementioned legislative provision was introduced by the post-independent administration to enhance birth registration in Zimbabwe.

Birth registration is a human right that was first acknowledged in 1948 at the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 1966, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of the United Nations ensured that birth registration is a legally required requirement for all states. In order to protect a child's rights, Cody (2009) claims that creating an official record of the child through a legal administrative process is a crucial first step. According to the Birth and Death Registration Act (Chapter 5:02), birth certificates for children must be obtained by parents or legal guardians within 42 days of the child's birth. Orphans and Vulnerable Children without birth certificates typically experience psychosocial issues such as poverty, health issues, poor social support, low-quality schooling, social separation, abandonment, among others

Orphans and Vulnerable Children lacking birth documents frequently experience psychosocial issues like poverty, health issues. Birth registration in Zimbabwe has a long history that dates back to June 10th, 1891, during the colonial era. Before 1904, when obtaining birth certificates for the non-black majority became mandatory, it was intended for non-Africans and voluntary for Africans. Following Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, the post-colonial government launched new birth registration measures that were inclusive of all people. For example, the new government of Zimbabwe enacted the Birth and Death Registration Act (Chapter 5:02). The government of Zimbabwe started a number of initiatives to encourage birth registration because it was crucial for providing children with an identity and other advantages.

While the government of Zimbabwe and a number of other groups have taken some action to encourage individuals to obtain birth certificates for their children, the situation has remained dire because the number of OVC without birth certificates is still increasing on a daily basis (Kadzikano, 2007). Justice for Children has started a number of interventions to help children

register their births. Statistics on non-birth registration in Zimbabwe are undesirable because the rates remain high. The World Bank (2019) reported that in Zimbabwe, 48.7% of births for children under the age of five were fully registered. ZIMSTAT (2022) showed that 28.3% of births in urban areas and 19.1% of births overall were recognized as infant births.

In Zimbabwe, especially in the most marginalized areas, the number of OVC lacking birth certificates has significantly increased (Chereni, 2016). Only 44% of children under five had their births registered, according to statistics (ZIMSTAT, 2016). Children are living without birth certificates due to a variety of reasons. Birth certificates are a birth and human rights problem, as previously said, as they affect a child's life up to maturity. There are a number of factors that were listed as having an impact on children's birth registration and these include ignorance, family conflicts, neglect. Despite the availability of resources, these components have long been disregarded, and quite a few problems have been cited as reasons why birth certificates for children are obtained late or not at all. The goal of the study is to comprehend what the government is doing to improve the number of young children specifically Orphans and Vulnerable Children from obtaining birth certificates. This study will therefore go into further detail on the measures being implemented by the government to improve birth registration for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the majority of Zimbabwean society.

1.3 problem statement

Given that one of the fundamental human rights for obtaining services for basic necessities is a birth certificate. Every child must be registered, and this is the responsibility of both the state and parents or guardians. Although child-rights advocates and academics agree that a birth certificate is crucial for the child's development outcomes, such as sensitivity and responsiveness to children's needs, Teti and Condelari (2002) proposed that a birth certificate

should be necessary throughout one's entire life. Yet, the majority of children are not registered, which causes social marginalization and prevents them from properly exercising their rights.

Hence, it is still unclear why most OVC are not registering for birth certificates, despite the fact that doing so is crucial for the welfare of the children and future generations. Due to a lack of birth documents, a number of youngsters in Zimbabwe were unable to complete their grade 7 exams. Some of these children were also unable to engage in sports. If a youngster manages to live without a certificate proving their identification, this is detrimental to their quality of life. To provide answers to this, the study aims to assess the measures being implemented by the government to address the challenges being faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates in Zimbabwe.

1.4 justification of the study

The target group will have a better awareness of birth registration and the value of having a birth certificate if issues that prevent OVC from obtaining birth certificates are looked into. This will help to ensure that parents/guardians abide by the Birth and Death Registration Act (Chapter 5:02) of 1986, which mandates registration within 42 days of the baby's birth. After birth registration, the birth certificate is crucial in proving that a kid is a citizen of Zimbabwe. Since it is the duty of the state to safeguard its residents, reliable population figures will allow the states to distribute resources properly, including those for health and education, among other things.

The states will expand social protection services including education and health. States will do this through educating people about the value of birth certificates to their communities and identifying any gaps in support. Also, it will assist the states in developing viable birth registration programs.

In order to create policies that are effective in ensuring that child protection services are available to meet their basic needs, policymakers will benefit from the research in identifying the gaps in the current rules regarding birth certificate issues.

The study will give the student exposure to both academics and the workforce. Interaction with the clients during the research will increase experience.

1.5 aim of the study

The aim of this study is to assess the measures being implemented by the government to address the challenges being faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates in Marondera district specifically Rusike suburb and in Zimbabwe at large.

1.6 objective of the study

- 1.To identify the challenges faced by Orphans and Vulnerable Children without birth certificates.
2. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the government measures to address the challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificatesin Rusike suburb
3. To identify ways to improve child birth registration in Rusike suburb

1.7 definition of terms

1.7.1 Birth Registration

According to UNICEF (2019), birth registration is the continuous of permanent and universal recording within the civil registry, of the occurrence and characteristics of births in accordance with the legal requirements of a country. Tutu (2009) defined birth registration as the official recording of the birth of a child through an administrative process of the state and is coordinated by a particular branch of government.

1.7.2 Birth Certificate

A birth certificate is a legal document given to a person by the state to demonstrate that a birth has been registered, according to Plan International (2005). According to the definition, a birth certificate is a document that the registrar issues to acknowledge a child's birth and to verify the child's citizenship. It contains the child's name, birthdate, place of birth, region of issuance, and parents' names.

1.7.3 Child

According to the Children's Act (2013), a child as a boy or girl under the age of 18. A child is therefore a person who is below the age of 18 years if affected by family conflicts to acquire birth certificate.

1.8 summary

The research subject, background of the study, problem statement, and justification of the study are introduced in the chapter. The definitions of the key words and the outlines of the study's goals and inquiries were also included.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 introduction

Every person must access a birth certificate as their first official document in life. As a result, the child's birth certificate will be able to be used till death. In spite of this, Rusike suburb still has a birth registration issue when it comes to registration of OVC. Birth registration problems exist not only locally but also globally, regionally, and nationally. In accordance with the topic under investigation, this chapter evaluates the literature on OVC birth registration internationally, in the African region, as well as in Zimbabwe. The basic needs method, which served as the study's theoretical basis, will also be presented.

2.1 theoretical framework

The English dictionary defines a theory as a set of ideas that explains observed facts or phenomena. This study was informed by the basic needs approach. A birth certificate is a crucial necessity in every person's existence. According to the basic needs approach, essential human needs like food and security must come first. Theoretically, a birth certificate can provide all the information that a person needs. This implies that the agreement takes effect as the person matures. For instance, a birth certificate is necessary when applying for a national identification. Thus, a child cannot achieve sustainable development without meeting their basic needs, i.e., without a birth certificate, they cannot fulfil all of their needs for the rest of their lives. According to the research's theory, children's lives can be protected by presenting them with a birth certificate, which serves as a basic form of identification.

2.2 conceptualisation of birth registration

Birth registration, according to Cody (2019), is the formal documentation of a child's birth through a procedure carried out by state administration and managed by a certain body of government. A birth certificate is a legal document issued to a person by a state to prove birth registration. It is produced after birth registration (Cody, 2019).

According to Chereni (2016), birth registration which reveals the child's name, nationality, and citizenship is a fundamental human right. According to the Plan International Report from 2005, every child should be registered. Further economic and socio-political rights of the kid are built on the provisions of birth certificates. According to Mudede (2005), there are two methods of birth registration. The first is the current registration, which is mandated by the 1986 Birth and Death Registration Act (Chapter 5:02), and requires that the child obtain a birth certificate within 42 days of birth. The second is the late birth registration, which is implemented after 42 days of the child's birth and is effective until the time that the child's parents obtain one for the child (Cody, 2019). This demonstrates the significance of birth registration records because they are the first official records that even a young child with no knowledge of the world can access. It will be used by that child for the rest of his or her life. The mother is granted first preference to register children, as stated in Chapter 5:02 of the Birth and Death Registration Act of 1986.

For instance, when the mother abandons the infant and it is unknown where the mother's family is. The infant is essentially invisible to society without this integration obtaining a birth certificate and has no identity, no nationality, and no rights whatsoever (UNICEF, 2015). This demonstrates that the mother is given precedence in acquiring the child's birth certificate because she is the child's main guardian. This may be the case because the mother is the one who gives birth and thus is in possession of all accurate information regarding the child, including the genuine father.

The legal term for those without birth certificates is stateless, which is defined as anyone who is not regarded as a citizen or national of any state (United Nations 2014). UNICEF, however, noted in 2017 that 40 million infants worldwide go unregistered each year. This indicates that the non-birth registration of children is a global issue. One of the things that prevents parents from getting birth certificates for their kids is family strife, ignorance, neglect and lack of knowledge on the importance of birth certificates. The purpose of this study is to pinpoint the impact of birth registration to OCV as well as the measures implemented to address challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates.

2.3 birth registration legal and policy framework

International, regional, and national laws govern the registration of births. These laws are passed through the use of instruments that serve as legal frameworks. In the event that they are signed and ratified, these documents bind the members of states. A continuous, sustainable, permanent, mandatory, and universal birth registration system is crucially dependent on the legal system (Cody, 2009). This implies that appropriate legislation and methods, along with effective administration and long-term system upkeep, all contribute to the establishment of a birth registration system. Consequently, a high recording of instances of children having birth certificates may result from awareness and knowledge of these frameworks.

Birth registration was initially acknowledged as a fundamental right in 1948 by the International Declaration of Human Rights (Cody, 2009). Everybody has the right to be treated equally under the law worldwide, according to Article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This means that this legal framework can assist parents/guardians in realizing that failure to comply will have negative effects. Every kid has a legal right to a birth certificate. According to the study being done, some parents/guardians of OVC in the Rusike area fail to follow this framework as a result of different issues.

In order to advance human rights through birth registration, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights entered into force in 1976. (Cody, 2019). Every child must be registered as soon as possible after birth, according to Article 24 paragraph 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This demonstrates that many parents/guardians of OVC will be encouraged to seek birth certificates for their kids if this legal framework is followed.

The Child Rights Convention went into effect in 1990, and Zimbabwe corrected it in 1992. (Cody, 2009). Article 7 of the Convention states that a child should be registered immediately after birth and have the right to a name, nationality from birth.

The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the 1990 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child both enshrine the right to a birth certificate (ACRWC). Every child has the right to be registered at birth, to have a name, and to have a nationality, according to UNCRC Article 7. Every child has a right to a name from birth, which must be registered as soon as possible after birth, according to Article 6 of the African Charter.

The national laws were influenced by the international laws. Both the UNCRC and the ACRWC have been approved by the state. Zimbabwe's Constitution is regarded as the country's highest law. The Constitution states that birth registration establishes a person as a citizen of Zimbabwe. Regarding the domestication of the UNCRC and ACRWC, the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Chapter 5:02) of 1986 was added. The Act stipulates that the infant must register and obtain a birth after birth certificate within 42 days of birth. Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey (2015), however, found that 33% of children had birth certificates and 11% were recorded at birth but did not receive birth certificates (ZIMSTAT & ICF International, 2016). The family environment is found to be strongly correlated with better birth registration

outcomes. The study's objective is to assess the actions taken by the government to address challenges faced by OVC in Rusike area from obtaining birth certificates.

From a European and Asian perspective, the significance of a birth certificate is that it avoids statelessness, which is the term for a person who lacks citizenship.

A birth certificate serves as the connection between a state and a person. Youngsters who have birth certificates can access all the resources they will require throughout their lives. They include, among other things, protection, education, and health services. The governments of these states offer everyone the efficient birth registration efforts. In light of this, UNICEF (2018) asserts that Europe as a whole is distinguished by high rates of birth registration.

Although birth registration remained voluntary as post-colonial countries participated in the colonial legislative system, the history of birth registration during colonial times in Africa appeared to have had a detrimental effect. According to Plan Australia (2015), some birth registration laws in various nations disregarded peoples' cultural practices. For example, in Cameroon, children from nomadic pygmies were not given legal recognition; as a result, birth registration laws needed to be made universal. This demonstrates how low birth registration rates in African countries are a result of the Eurocentric birth registration system.

At birth, every kid should be registered (Plan International, 2015). In order to guarantee universal birth registration for everyone, the Zimbabwean post-independence administration corrected some of the regional and international instruments. Also, the colonial laws were relaxed by the government after Zimbabwe gained independence so that everyone may register their children's births. To cut down on travel time, the Zimbabwean government has decentralized birth registration offices.

Around 230 million children under the age of five are not registered internationally, according to UNICEF (2014). Despite these international and regional measures being in place, 37% of these unregistered OVC are still living in Sub-Saharan Africa

2.4 Challenges faced by OVC without birth certificates

The World Bank Group (2018) noted that the performance of developing nations like Zimbabwe is not promising. Only 49% of Zimbabwean children under the age of five are registered, according to UNICEF (2018). Many issues affect children without birth documents, such as social exclusion, from full lifecycle services, exploitation, marginalization and poor development (UNICEF, 2018).

2.5 Exclusion in accessing basic services

A birth certificate is a requirement to obtain services needed throughout life, according to UNICEF (2014). A birth certificate is viewed as a passport for sociopolitical and economic services that improves full participation in a variety of areas, including sports, education, and protection from abusers when appropriate (UNICEF, 2013). A birth certificate is required by a number of humanitarian initiatives that are offered in schools in order to get aid (Chereni, 2016). For instance, Zimbabwe's Basic Education Support Module helps vulnerable students with school costs, exam costs, exam class clothing, and other expenses. A birth certificate is needed as identification in order to participate in this program. Articles 7 and 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulate that a child's nationality must be determined by their birth certificate (UNCRC, 2010).

2.5.1 Exploitation

Millions of women, men, boys and girls are denied basic services because of weak civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems. Without a birth certificate, children are more vulnerable to child rights violations, including child marriage, child labor and trafficking, and becoming child soldiers. This is even more true in emergencies, where people without birth certificates become excluded from health coverage, access to education, and social protection programs. Sixteen countries in Africa out of a total of 36 countries supported by the Global Financing Facility (GFF) have less than two-thirds of children aged below five years registered with civil registration authorities in their respective countries.

2.5.2 marginalisation

Moreover, obtaining a birth certificate is related to Sustainable Development Goal 16, which is concerned with promoting inclusive societies. SDG 16 acknowledges that having justice and a legal identity, including birth registration, promotes the sustainable development of society. Having a birth certificate, then, contributes to sustainable development for an individual, a community, and the nation as a whole. This demonstrates how children without birth certificates experience social marginalization since they are thought of as stateless people. So, parents and guardians must be aware that family disputes, ignorance or neglect affect children's rights to a birth certificate and other basic service

2.6 Government measures in addressing challenges faced by OVC without birth certificates

2.6.1 birth and death certificate registration act amendment

In order to increase birth registration, rate the Zimbabwean government gave legal rights to single mothers and single fathers to acquire birth certificates for them. According to Munyoro

2021 the high court decided to give fathers of children born out of wedlock a legal right to acquire birth certificates for their children where the mothers cannot be found or become unavailable to do this.

The Registrar General amended the Births and Deaths Registration Act (Chap. 30) after realizing that certain of its provisions were unfriendly to African conditions and taking into account Zimbabwe's cultural context. This made the Act more acceptable to the majority of Africans. The Births and Deaths Registration Act (No. 11/86), which was published as a result of the modifications, went into effect on June 20 of that year. In accordance with some of the integrated revisions, a child born outside of wedlock may be registered in his or her father's name following the death of the father with joint application from the parents' closest relatives. Additionally, it made the requirement for birth registration (BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT: Chapter 5:02 2005).

A Statutory Instrument was established on March 31, 2000, allowing birth certificates to be provided without charge to children under the age of six upon registration of their births. This was done to lessen the burden on parents who are unable to obtain birth certificates owing to financial constraints and to encourage parents to register their children before they start school. This still holds true. Children are not prevented from enrolling in school or from taking public exams despite the requirement that they present a birth certificate upon enrollment. However, every effort is made to make sure that their births are registered and that birth certificates are issued.

2.6.2 increasing birth registration points

The Zimbabwean government has raised the number of birth registration stations across the nation in an effort to increase the number of children who are recorded above the current rate of 70% and increase their access to healthcare and educational opportunities. Decentralization

was intended to reduce traffic at the ten provincial registration points, but children's rights organizations have criticized the government for failing to adequately publicize the plan, which started in September of last year. Seven substations have been added to the central registration office in the capital, Harare, including two at the two largest referral hospitals in the nation, Parirenyatwa and Harare.

The Child Protection Society (CPS) emphasized that the push for decentralization should be accompanied by ongoing public education. Children who lack birth certificates face exploitation and poverty and are unable to obtain health care and education. Most people who need to register won't have access to any newspapers. Vulnerable communities continue to place little importance on registering new babies. For instance, a survey by the NGO Farm Orphan Support Trust found that around 75% of the children of former farm workers who lost their employment in the contentious land reform process are not registered. Decentralization was welcomed, but the CPS claimed that it was still a laborious process.

A birth confirmation record is necessary for registration. This document is provided by the hospital upon full payment of the maternity fee and the production of the mother's identity card. Mothers who do not have identity cards, however, are unable to help their children enroll for school. Children from customary law marriages, which are frequent in Zimbabwe and involve the payment of a bride price but no marriage license, also face difficulties. For the father's name to appear on the birth certificate, he must be present at registration.

2.6.3 mobile birth registration

In addition to the decentralized organization of the District Registries across the nation and the creation of Sub-Offices, yearly outreach initiatives in the form of Mobile Registration Exercises have been carried out since 1981. A complete set of births, deaths, national, and voter registrations are carried by these mobile exercises. By bringing the facilities almost to their

doorsteps, these initiatives aim to relieve individuals of long-distance travel and encourage them to register the births of their children. Depending on funding, the mobile registration exercise typically lasts one or two months. From April 2022 to September 2022 Zimbabwe conducted a national mobile registration exercise for civil documentation (Kubatana Net 2022).

2.6.4 free birth registration and removal of birth registration requirements

The Home Affairs Minister reported that civil registration documents such as national identity cards, birth certificates, death certificates and cattle brands is now all be free of charge during the ongoing national mobile registration blitz after President Mnangagwa's intervention following requests by people. Registration requirements have also been eased to ensure that people can register easily. "As a listening Government, the bottlenecks identified since the beginning of the exercise are being attended to, including the removal of fees and stringent information requirements."

Home Affairs Minister Kazembe Kazembe reported that Cabinet had approved the scrapping of fees that were initially required to collect the identity particulars to ensure everyone access the critical documents. The move is in line with the Second Republic's mantra and the Zimbabwe 42nd Independence celebrations theme of "leaving no one and no place behind". Said Minister Kazembe: "To ensure that no one and no place is left behind during this national mobile registration exercise, my Ministry is glad to announce that Cabinet has approved waiver of fees for all civil registration documents that is birth certificates, death certificates, national identity documents and livestock brand certificates are now issued at no costs during this mobile registration period with team leaders have been instructed to attend to every person and ensure that they are offered the services they require." He advised everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to ensure they were registered. There is a target of reaching at least 2 million

people under the registration blitz. During April 2022, the Civil Registry Department had registered more than a million people countrywide for birth certificates.

2.7 Ways to improve birth registration

2.7.1 Intergration of birth registration with health facilities

Studies shows that integrating birth registration points with health facilities improves child birth registration. According to UNICEF (2018) iintegrating registration points and birth registration procedures within health facilities and the antenatal and postnatal programs has reduced previous barriers to birth registration, such as transportation costs and other opportunity costs incurred when families had to separately register their child's birth at a Department of Home Affairs (DHA) office. Integrating registration points and birth registration procedures within health facilities and the antenatal and postnatal programs has reduced previous barriers to birth registration, such as transportation costs and other opportunity costs incurred when families had to separately register their child's birth at a Department of Home Affairs (DHA) office.

2.8 summary

The chapter discusses theoretical framework in relation to the study and issues of birth registration globally, regionally and in Zimbabwe. Trends in global context highlights the differences between African and European countries. To explain these, a thematic approach was used.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 introduction

The decisions one makes on the steps involved in undertaking a research project are referred to as methodology (Silverman, 2016). The options include, among others, examples that one wants to analyse and data collection techniques (Silverman, 2016). This chapter therefore presents the research methodology. Therefore, under this section the research presented the adopts research approach, research design, targeted population, , sample size and sampling technique data collection methods, data presentation and analysis methods and ethical issues within the study,

3.1 research approach

This research adopted a qualitative research approach because the research is exploring people's life experiences, feelings, perceptions and thoughts. The inquiry investigated the measures taken by government in addressing challenges faced by OVC without birth certificates. Under the research objectives that examines the challenges experienced by OVCs without birth certificates, the measures taken by government to address the challenges faced by OVCs and the ways that can be put in place to improve birth registration. The nature of the topic necessitates the need to qualitatively explore the experiences and narratives of the parents or guardians of OVCs without birth certificate and OVC without birth certificates. According to Given (2008) in qualitative research data is collected in a natural setting as such the findings from a qualitative research are highly contextual. Anderson and Asernhault (1998) argued that qualitative research approach facilitates the collection of data based on quality not quantity. Bryman and Burgess (1994) also pointed out that qualitative research approach explore diverse

aspects of social world that includes peoples experiences, understating and perceptions in everyday life. Qualitative research approach explore diverse aspects of social world that is people's experiences, understandings and perceptions in everyday life.

3.2 research design

According to Gray (2019), a research design is a strategy for gathering, evaluating, and analysing data. In order for someone who has not experienced it to understand a complicated pattern of what is studied in detail, it must be illustrated (McMillan and Schumacher, 2021). Consequently, the researcher utilized a case study research design since it was vital to understand the family issues that prevent parents from obtaining birth certificates for their children in the Rusike area. According to Yin (2014) a case study is an exact enquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon inside its genuine setting, particularly when the limits about the phenomenon and context are not obviously evident. The design also enables the researcher to interact with the participants directly and observe them in their natural environments. This enabled the researcher to comprehend social life from the participants' points of view (Bailey, 2017).

3.3 targeted population

Identifying the population to be investigated is a crucial initial step in every research project (Saunders, 2013). Population, according to Burns and Grove (2017), is the total group of participants who give the data necessary for the researcher to gather and draw conclusions. The study targeted population include Parents or guardians of Orphans and Vulnerable Children without birth certificates, orphans and vulnerable children, key informant from the department of Social development and key informants from Registrar general's office. These

participants had first-hand knowledge of raising children without birth documents. Parents/guardians are the micro level of children, so this was crucial. This indicates that they are in the child's direct surroundings, where they are experiencing the challenges that the child faces on a daily basis.

3.4 sample size

A sample size of 15 participants was utilized to analyse the challenges being faced by OVC from obtaining birth certificates and what the government is doing to improve birth registration for the OVC. Five key informants and 10 participants were chosen for this study's population in order to achieve variety and representation. A sample size should have similar features, according to Leedy (2019). All participants in the study's sample size had experience with child safety issues.

It is impossible to conduct the study with the entire population. As a result, the researcher employed sampling to enable her to control the group she needed to study. According to Creswell (2014), sampling is the process of choosing study participants from the entire population. Sampling is also described by William (2016) as the process of choosing units from a population of interest. The researcher utilized a technique called snowball sampling. This kind of sampling involves choosing participants who have particular traits and asking them to recommend others who share those traits. According to Yegidis, Weinbach, and Myers (2018), snowball sampling refers to the process of compiling a sample as the research proceeds. The researcher felt that this type of sampling technique is useful because it allows the researcher to reach where she wanted to reach since the targeted population was difficult to locate.

3.5 sampling procedure

To choose a manageable population sample for the research, sampling procedures can be either probability-based or non-probability-based. The researcher employed the snowball sampling technique, a non-probability strategy that is frequently used when a problem has a negative implication. According to Yegidis, Weinbach, and Myers (2018), snowball sampling refers to the process of compiling a sample as the research proceeds. Similar to how a ball rolling in the snow gathers snow to make a ball, the researcher will compile the participants. This was due to the researcher's difficulty in locating parents/guardians of Orphans and Vulnerable Children. The researcher first names a child care provider as a crucial informant. The researcher then requested contact information and the names of parents/guardians of children lacking birth certificates from the child care provider. The researcher next got in touch with these parents to see if they qualified to be included in the research study's sample or not. The study's participants were open to taking part. Until the participant obtained a sample of 10 participants and 5 key informants, the researcher asked these participants to submit further names of the parents of children without birth certificates. This was crucial since it gave the researcher access to the real participants, who were the research's driving force.

3.6 data collection tools

An instrument used in research is one that is used to test knowledge, attitude, and abilities as well as to gather data (Leedy, 2019). Key informant interviews and in-depth interviews were all used by the researcher during the research

3.6.1 interviews

According to Saunders (2013), an interview is any interaction between two or more persons during which the interviewer asks questions in an effort to obtain information or assertions from the interviewee. In-depth interviews might be semi structured or unstructured, inductive or open-ended. In other words, there is no predetermined list of appropriate answers to the

questions, such as true or false. The researcher believed that this was crucial since it would allow participants to express themselves in their own words and provide lengthy, in-depth responses if they wish to do so

3.6.2 key informant interviews

Interviews with Key Informants were also used by the researcher. Conducting these interviews is a critical part of ethnographic research. A key informant typically belongs to that community or group and is frequently a leader within, whether formally or informally. The researcher can learn more about the challenges faced by OVC to get birth certificates and the government measures being implemented to address these challenges through key informant interviews. These techniques give us the opportunity to ask guidance and assistance from individuals who can provide the necessary perspective on how to win the trust of community members and conduct the research in a manner that is sensitive to cultural differences in a setting or context that is foreign to us. Key informant interviews directs the researcher where to find needed information and resources on topics of study interest, and even how to interpret study findings.

3.7 data collection tools

Interview guidelines can be used in interviews, according to Kumar (2019). Flexible design was used to create the interview guides, allowing the researcher to add prompts as needed. In this study, the researcher used unstructured interviews with open-ended questions drawn from an interview guide. The respondent hears the interviewer read out the questions. The researcher selected this method because it enables direct interaction with the participants and the collection of verbal and non-verbal cues.

It is quite beneficial to use the Key Informants handbook when performing ethnographic research. This manual lays the road for the researcher to obtain the information from the key

informants. These were created with an open-ended structure so the researcher could identify the other group of participants and acquire the necessary data.

3.8 ethical considerations

Social scientists require morality to help them determine if their study is ethical or not when they are conducting it. These are referred to as ethics. According to Majumdar (2015), respecting participants' rights advances scientific understanding; as a result, researchers must take participant protection ethics into account to ensure that no harm is done. The study was conducted in the Rusike area with parents/guardians and child care providers as the target group using a letter from the institution as authorization.

3.8.1 informed consent

Informed consent, according to the American Psychological Association (2017), is essential to research ethics. Participants should be aware of the criteria of the research as well as the fact that they are taking part in it, according to Laerd (2012). Before the participant's collaboration, the researcher made an effort to address the consent. Participants were given a letter from Bindura University of Science Education prior to interviews. It's crucial to select a language that participants can understand, which is why the researcher chose Shona. Participants are free to participate in the study, and how they respond will depend on how open-minded they are.

3.8.2 confidentiality

The researcher thought it was crucial to uphold the secrecy concept in this investigation. The participant's names will stay anonymous, the researcher assured them, and their privacy will be maintained. The researcher in this study made sure that the results were handled honestly, objectively, with integrity, care, competence, responsibility, and legality. As such, the

successful gathering of data from the respondents was done in a way that did not insult the participants.

3.9 reliability

Creswell (2016) asserts that a technique is reliable if it produces the same outcomes each time it is used when it is applied repeatedly to the same item. By obtaining the demographic information of the respondents, the researcher in this study made sure that the data were accurate because the respondents were based in the study's neighbourhood.

3.10 validity

The degree to which a test actually measures what it claims to measure is referred to as validity, according to Leedy (2019). By paying attention to the research objectives and ensuring that the interviews covered the issues emphasized in the objective, the validity of this study was improved.

3.11 data analysis and presentation

Data is separated into understandable themes, patterns, trends, and correlations through data analysis (Mouton, 2017). According to De Vos (2015), qualitative data analysis reduces the amount of raw data in order to translate the data into insights. Data analysis in this study entailed organizing what the researcher observed, heard, and read in order to make sense of what was discovered. As a result, the narrative technique, together with thematic approaches and subthemes, were employed to evaluate the data in this research. This made it possible to analyse how birth registration could be improved in that suburb in the future as well as to present the challenges that prevent OVC from getting birth certificates as well as the actions being done to address these challenges.

3.12 summary

This chapter outlined the research methodology and research design that was followed in gathering information required by the study.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This dissertation chapter presents analyses and discusses the research findings. The study assessed the measures being implemented by the government to address the challenges being faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates in Marondera district specifically Rusike suburb and in Zimbabwe at large. The objectives focused on the challenges faced by Orphans and Vulnerable Children without birth certificates. The government measures to address the challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates in Rusike suburb. The ways to improve child birth registration in Rusike suburb. The data for this study was collected from workers from the Registrar general's office, social workers from the department of Social development, parents or guardians of OVC without birth certificates and OVC without birth certificates using key informant interviews and unstructured interviews. The data was presented and analyzed using thematic data analysis. Verbatim method was used. The findings were discussed in line with the reviewed literature and the theoretical framework.

4.1 demographic Characteristics of participants

The researcher recruited participants of different demographic characteristics in terms of age, gender, level of education, position to ensure sample representation. Five of the recruits participants were key informants from the Department of social development and the Registrar general office. 4 were the guardians who looks after the recruited OVCs. The other six were the orphans and vulnerable children. The response rate was hundred percent thus all the recruits participants managed to complete the interviews.

Name	Age	Gender	Level of education	Position
Participants A	32	Men	Tertiary	Key informant
Participant B	45	Women	Tertiary	Key informant
Participant C	50	Men	Tertiary	Key informants
Participant D	28	Women	Tertiary	Key informant
Participant E	50	Men	Tertiary	Key informant
Participant F	65	Women	Secondary	Guardian
Participant G	51	Men	Secondary	Guardian
Participant H	48	Women	Secondary	Guardian
Participant I	50	Men	Secondary	Guardian
Participant J	10	Girl	Primary	OVC
Participant K	11	Boy	Primary	OVC
Participant L	12	Girl	Primary	OVC
Participant M	14	Boy	Primary	OVC
Participant N	16	Girl	Primary	OVC
Participant O	17	Boy	Primary	OVC

4.2 presentation of findings

4.2.1 challenges faced by Orphans and Vulnerable Children without birth certificates.

less access to birth registration

It emerged from the research participants that Orphans and Vulnerable children without birth certificates faces challenges in accessing birth certificates. According to the study participants OVC without birth certificates finds it hard to access birth certificates due to a variety of challenges that include lack of support, reluctance from the parents or guardians, lack of requirements and long distances. The below sentiments emerged from participants during the interviews

Key informant from the Department of Social development said

“Usually that child without birth certificate finds it very hard to access birth certificates because they are already marginalized. A lot of relatives, guardians or parents are reluctance in helping these children get birth certificate”

An interviewed OVC also said

"I can't access birth certificate because nobody is willing to help me get one. They need someone who is your relative to help you acquire a birth. I have tried to go by my self several times but nobody is willing to listen to me."

An interviewed guardian

“I have heard that birth certificates can of be granted to children who went there with their guardians. My problem is that I am now old to take my grandchildren for birth regration. I can't walk of which the offices are too far. I always heard that it's a procedure that consumes

a lot of time as well. Maybe you can help me because the issue has been bothering me for years now"

Poor quality of life

It also emerged from the participants that lack of birth certificates affects the quality of life for OVC. According to the research participants the OVCS without birth certificates experience poverty since they are excluded in all social protection and development programs which make most of them ends up being destitute. Participants revealed that birth certificates are important because they help in improving the lives of people as they can be easily identified during the implementation of development initiatives of social support programs. According to a key informant from the Department of Social development

"Most of them end up living miserable lives in the streets because having no birth is like having no identity. It's very rare to find someone who helps someone who doesn't know the identity."

Another participant a guardian said

"I took this child from the streets. He can't go anywhere because he doesn't have a birth certificate. His life is at stuck. It's so sad that a child future has been destroyed because he doesn't have identification"

An interviewed child without birth said

"I do not know if I am going to make it in life but the situation right now is terrible. You can't do or go anyway without a birth certificate. I only live to survive. My future is at stake. At school you can see that lack of birth certificates gives a disadvantage. You cant take part in any activity".

Social marginalization

The research participants revealed that OVCs without birth certificates faces social marginalization as they lack recognition. According to the study participants OVCs are already marginalized people therefore lack of birth certificates increase their situation. Participants reported that having no birth certificates deprived children their social status. An interviewed child said

" Its not easy because everywhere a birth is a gate pass. In school you can't do anything without a birth. Those organizations that helps people demands birth certificates as well. Worse if you get serious illness they need birth certificates for you to get admitted. I feel like i am not a human like others because everywhere i think nobody recognize me"

Another Participant a key informant from the department of Social development said.

"Well these children are already marginalized but the lack of birth certificates doubles their trouble. In the present society people without birth certificates cannot anything productive. They are not acknowledged at any cost because one cannot even access education, health or any other social services without a birth."

An interview guardian said

"I don't know what to do to help children without birth certificates. The situation is very tough for them. You can see that they are not recognized at all in the society"

Interviewed children said

"Life is so tough to people like us. Even people in the community don't see us as existing people. We can't take part in any activity because your identity is required first"

Less access to social services

Study participants noted that OVC without birth certificates lacks access to basic social services such as health, education, social support programs and protection. According to the participants a birth certificate is a prerequisite for one to gain access to educate, health and social support services as such having no birth means no access to such basic services. An interviewed OVC said

“Having no birth certificate is very challenging for me. I was denied access to Aid because of that. Nothing really adds up in life. At school I am very good but there are fears that i might not write exams because of birth certificates issues. I don't even take part in many activities. I do not want to stress much about the issue”

Another Participant a key informant from the Department of Social Development said

“Children without birth certificates cannot be identified as such their chances of accessing basic social services are very slim.”

”

Human rights violations

It emerged from the study participants that OVCs without birth certificates are vulnerable to human rights violations such as child labor, child abuse and child marriage. According to the participants the OVCs without birth certificates are victims of child marriage, child labor and child abuse. Participants noted that lack of birth certificates deprived OVC their rights which then exposes them to vulnerabilities. An interviewed key informant from the Department of Social development said

“I got married when I was 13 years and now I am 17. I got married because that was the only option I had. My situation cannot be told in few minutes. I need days to narrate to you all the challenges I faced that are caused by being vulnerable and lack of identification. Marriage is not easy but it’s far much better”

Another Participant an OVC Said

“I work at a farm for me to survive. It was not easy to get employed there because I don’t have any identification document. They didn't trust me. I thank God i got employed and my boss got trusts me the most. My fear now is that if I got fired I don't know where to start because people do not want to employee people without identification documents they always think they are thieves”

Social-psycho challenges

It emerged from the research participants that OVCs without birth certificates faces pscho-social challenges such as law self-esteem, isolation, mental health issues and insecurities. According to the research participants having no birth certificates is disadvantageous to the extent that you feel like you are not like other people which then result in psycho-social problems. An interviewed guardian said

“I always notice some unusual things from this child. He always spent time alone he doesn't want to play with others. Sometimes you see that the child is going a lot especially if they are denied access to take part in sports at school. He likes playing football but due to lack of proper documents. They drop him from the team every year”

“I always over think over my future without the documents. I got deprived a lot of things because I don’t have a birth whilst I am a child. Will my children experience the same? Sometimes I feel like I must kill myself because everything about my life is just a messy”

4.2.2 the government measures to address the challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates in Rusike suburb

The study revealed that the Zimbabwean government have no specific measures to address the challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates in Rusike but it has put in place some national initiatives that improves birth registration in that country which includes law Amendment, mobile birth registration, decentralization of birth registration points and removal of birth registration requirements. An interviewed key informant from the registrar general’s office said

there are no specific government measures that address the challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates. However, the government of Zimbabwe has got a lot of strategies that increases birth registration in the country which also makes it easy for OVC to obtain a birth certificates especially if they are surrounded by people who understand. Some of the strategies includes mobile birth registration, free birth registration, legal framework amendments, decentralization of birth registration”

Another key informant pointed out that

“Taking a birth certificate requires the involvement of third parties such as parents, guardian or social workers because most of the information required there are important. Usually its up to the community to help the OVC get a certificate. If you can take for instance if an OVC is in an institution it’s the role of social workers to help an OVC acquire a birth certificate. The

same as in the community the guardians and parents should also help OVC acquire birthday certificates. Most of the government measures to address low birth registration are inclusive and people should take advantage of that and help these children acquire birthday certificates”

Mobile birth registration.

It emerged from the participants that the government almost every year before the election embarks on mobile birth registration. According to the participants the mobile birth registration by the government helps a lot of OVCs acquire birth certificates because the Officers from the registrar general's office moves into the areas offering the services to almost everyone. Interviewed participant from the registrar general's office said

“Depending with the funding but usually a year before the elections the government implements a mobile birth registration exercise with aim to improve birthday registration in the country. The program is very inclusive it usually caters for everyone. Our officers move door to door doing that. It reduces all the costs”

Another key informant a social worker from the department of Social development said

“A lot of OVCs managed to acquire birthday certificates during the mobile birth registration program by the government. The measure is very helpful i think it needs to be funded to ensure its effectiveness”

A child who acquired a birth certificate during the mobile registration exercise by the government said

“I am so happy i got my birth certificate last year. The people from the offices that offers birth certificates come into this community doing registration. I took advantage of the situation and asked my guardian to help me acquire one. The process was never hard as people say”.

Decentralization of birth registration points

It emerged from the research participants that the government has decentralized registration points in each district to increase birth registration. According to the research participants the decentralization of registration points helps to reduce pressure at registration offices and long distances travelling by those who require the services. According to the participants the OVC are not exempted from benefiting from this measure by the government. A key informant from the Registrar general's office said

“The government has a registration point in each and every district. This was done to increase birth registration in the country. It is also for the convenience of people in terms of time and costs.”

Another key informant a social worker from the department of Social development said

“The decentralization of registration points has helped a lot in increasing birth registration on the country given that registration points are found in each and every district. However the demand for birth certificates is increasing considering that birth certificates are now a requirement for one to access anything”

Another participant a guardian said

“The registration offices are in this district if you go early you can easily get a birth certificate in time. The problem is that people lack knowledge about that and some of the people are lazy. They don't know what's important for the kids. They only want them to work for them forgetting their future. It didn't take me a day to secure a birth Certificate for this child you are seeing”

Legal frameworks amendments

It emerged from the research participants that the government amendment the birth and death registration to ensure that a single father or a single mother can register a birth certificate for the child. According to the law Amendment by the government made it easier for most children to acquire their birth certificates given that before the law Amendment it was unlawful for a single parents to register a birth certificate. An interviewed key informant said

“The birth and death registration act is very flexible it was amendment to accommodate birth registration of children who were born even outside marriage. Even a single parent or a guardian has got a right to secure a birth certificate for a child.”

Another Participant a guardian said

“The mother of my grand children was left by her husband years back . I forced her to secure the birth certificates for her child before she went to South Africa. The law permits that unlike in the past were the officers required both parents and a proof from the relatives of the father for a child to get a birth certificate”

Free birth registration and removal of birth registration requirements

Participants noted that in 2022 the government introduced a free birth registration program and all the requirements were scrapped to increase birth registration in the country. Participant noted that the program was announced by the president of Zimbabwe before the mobile birth registration program which was carried out in 2022. Participant reported that the officers from the registrar general office were moving around the communities carrying out the program and a lot of people who used to fail to secure birth certificates due to lack of funds and lack of the needed requirements managed to secure birth certificates during the program by the government.

4.2.3 Ways to improve child birth registration in Rushike suburb

Awareness campaigns

Participant noted that an awareness campaign helps to improve child birth registration. According to the participants the main reasons why a lot of children lacks birth certificates is because of lack of knowledge, reluctance from parents or guardians family conflicts and negligence so people needs to be educated on the importance of birth registration such that gain knowledge on the importance of birth certificates and how they can secure birth certificates for children. An interviewed key informant from the Registrar General's office said

“The community needs to be educated on everything about birth regration. It seems that they lack knowledge about birth registration. They think it's something that is hard. Thus why a lot of them are reluctant. If you can look at it there is nothing that can really stop people to take birth certificates for their children.”

Another Participant a key informant from the department of social development said

“Education awareness campaigns can help to improve birth registration because a lot of parents and guardians are reluctant in taking birth certificates for children because they don't know the importance of birth certificate in today's world. They take the matters lightly nit knowing that the future of the children can be destroyed due to lack if birth certificates”.

Another Participant an OVC said

“People in my family are always in conflicts because my parents divorced years back. Nobody is willing to help me get a birth certificate. Their conflicts are now causing problems for me. Due to lack of birth certificates I can even do sports at schools. I think these people needs to be educated that even a single parent can secure a birth for the child”

Proper Funding

It emerged from the study participants that proper funding of the government strategies such as mobile birth registration and decentralization of registration points can help to increase child birth registration if they are well funded. According to the research participants lack of funds has decreased the effectiveness of government measures since most of people are still left behind in birth registration despite all the effort. An interviewed key informant from the Registrar General's office said

“The government measures are good if they are well funded. More funds needs to be directed towards that such that those measures effectively work. The mobile birth registration is very effective but it's done regularly due to lack of funding. If there is a proper budget the program can be carried out multiple times a year. I don't think the problem can persist once it's done like that.”

Another key informant from the Department of Social development said

“The most important challenge faced in developing nations when it comes to birth registration is lack of capital to support the measures that increases birth registration. The countries suffer economically therefore financial Aid can improve some of the effectiveness of the initiatives. If you look at it in as much as they say the decentralization of birth registration points has worked. The long queues are still seen and some people are still traveling long distances to access the registrar general's offices. More registration points needs to be built maybe in each and every constituency”

Integrating birth registration points and healthy facilities

It emerged from the research participants that the government needs to integrate the birth registration points with the health care facilities such as clinics and hospital to improve birthday registration. According to the participants the integration of health care facilities and birth registration points is helpful in improving birth registration because it reduces situations where parents left with children without birth certificates after giving birth. Participant also noted that the integration reduces transport costs and time. An interviewed key informant said

“The integration was only implemented at one hospital in Zimbabwe at Pariyeyatwa group of hospital. Evidence shows that the method works well. I think this measure needs to be put in place at each and every clinic. I don't think if the situation works like that parents can left the hospital without acquiring a birth certificate for their children”

Another Participant a key informant from the department of social development said

“Integration birth registration points with the health care facilities reduces all the challenges faced by parents such as travelling costs. They can do it whilst they are at the hospital. This measure is more effective”

Another Participant a guardian said

“I think birth registration should be done at the hospital when the child is born or when parents visits the hospital with the children. This reduces all these problems we are facing with children without birth certificates”

Monitoring and Evaluation

Participant from the study revealed that monitoring and evaluation can help to improve child birth registration in the country. According to the participants given the importance of birth certificates for the children and for the development of the country the registration process needs to be monitored and evaluated. Participants noted that monitoring and evaluation has

proved to be very effective in improving the outcome of each and every program implemented in the recent times. A key informant from the Registrar General's office said

“Lack of monitoring and evaluation has made us think that progress is being made in birth registration because the high demand of the services can make you believe that every program implemented is working. But if monitoring and evaluation frameworks are implemented well they help in bringing out the strengths and weaknesses of each program which can be used to make the right interventions”

Another key informant from the department of social development said

“The progress of each and every government measure requires monitoring and evaluating to ensure transparency and accountability.”

4.3 discussion of Findings

The study found out that OVC without birth certificates faces challenges such as less access to birth registration, social marginalization, and exclusion for accessing basic social services and psycho-social problems. According to the study, lack of birth certificates increases the vulnerability of the already vulnerable children. This finding goes in consistency with UNICEF (2018) which alluded that a birth certificate is viewed as a passport for sociopolitical and economic services that improves full participation in a variety of areas, including sports, education, and protection from abusers when appropriate as such children without birth certificates are excluded from health coverage, access to education, and social protection programs. Which means that these children are being deprived of their rights and their future is questionable? This finding goes in divergent with the basic needs approach that stipulates that all basic needs such as healthy, education, food and shelter should be a priority.

The study also found that the government has implemented various measures to reduce the challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates that includes legal frameworks amendments, removal of birth registration requirements, mobile birth registration. This finding was supported by Plan International (2015) which reported that in order to guarantee universal birth registration for everyone; the Zimbabwean post-independence administration corrected some of the regional and international instruments. Also, the colonial laws were relaxed by the government after Zimbabwe gained independence so that everyone may register their children's births. To cut down on travel time and costs the Zimbabwean government has decentralized birth registration offices, introduced the mobile registration exercise, and removed the birth registration requirements. This was also goes in consistence with the Sustainable Development Goal number 16, which acknowledges that having justice and a legal identity, including birth registration, promotes the sustainable development of society. Having a birth certificate, then, contributes to sustainable development for an individual, a community, and the nation as a whole. It also converges with the basic needs approach children's lives can be protected by presenting them with a birth certificate, which serves as a basic form of identification.

The study revealed that there are various ways that can be put in place to improve child birth registration that include awareness campaigns, funding, integration of birth registration and health care facilities. The study revealed that most of the people in the community are ignorant when it comes to acquiring birth certificates for the children as such education awareness campaigns can help to equip such people with knowledge on the importance of birth registration. Taking for instance many children from the study argued that they do not have people who are willing to assist them to acquire birth certificates since it is not allowed for one to secure a birth certificate alone. Moreover, the government efforts also need to be effectively implemented for them to fully achieve they purpose taking into consideration the fact that some

people are still left out despite all those efforts. Hence education funding, integration of birth registration points and healthy facilities can improve child birth registration.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AN RECOMMEDATIONS

5.0 introduction

This chapter summarizes the whole research and draw conclusions from the findings obtained in chapter 4 followed by the recommendations then the areas for further research

5.1 summary

The chapter one presented the introduction of the whole study, background of the study, problem statement, Research objectives Research questions, justification of the study and the definition of terms the The research was set out to investigate the measures being implemented by the government of Zimbabwe to address the challenges faced by Orphans and Vulnerable Children in acquiring birth certificates in Rusike suburb. Different factors are very influential on birth registration. The objectives of the study were to identify the negative impacts faced by unregistered Orphans and Vulnerable Children in their lives, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the government measures to address the challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates in Rusike suburb and to identify ways to improve child birth registration in Rusike suburb.

Chapter two presented the literature review. Literature was extensively reviewed from a global, regional and local perspective. The main issues that were presented in the literature were the theoretical framework, legal frameworks surround birth registration, the challanges faced by Children without birth certificates, the measures implemented by government to improve birthday registration and the ways that can be put in place to increase birth registration, the research gap and

Chapter 3 presented the research methodology. Under this section the presented was the adopted Research approach, research design, targeted population, sample and sampling

methods, data collection methods, data presentation and data analysis method and ethical considerations.

Chapter four presented, analyzed and discussed the research findings. The demographic characteristics of the participants were presented at the first section. The findings were then presented in form of themes and subthemes following thematic presentation method. The main themes were the objectives and the sub themes were the main theme that emerged when participants addressed the research objectives. Verbatim method was used to present the sentiments from the participants. The research findings were discussed in relation to the reviewed literature and the theoretical framework showing areas of consistency and inconsistency.

Chapter five presented the summary conclusions, recommendations and areas for future studies. The summary presented what each chapter was about. The conclusion presented a brief explanation of what was found from the study and its implications to the discipline of social work and practice. The recommendation presented what should be done to address the identified problems. And the areas of further investigation present the gaps of these study that future researchers must address.

The research findings have shown that family conflicts hamper early child birth registration the literature review shows that lack of birth registration is a global disease affecting all parts of the world. The most infected with the disease are suffering from social exclusion in all sorts of life. Not registering a child means children are denied their right to identity and they became vulnerable to all sorts of services.

These children experienced negative life impacts as they face psychosocial problems, dropping out of school, not enjoying their rights fully and not able to their basic needs. When a child faces these challenges he or she is at high risk of depression, stress the probability of practicing

deviance behaviour such as drug abuse, theft is high. Therefore, the ways of improving birth registration has been discussed. However, if different initiatives are put into place as proposed by participant, chances of improving birth registration will be high. Universal birth registration for all will be achieved.

5.2 conclusions

5.2.1 challenges faced by OVC in obtaining birth certificates

The research concluded that OVC Without birth certificates faces a variety of challenges that include less access to birth registration, violation of their rights, lack of access to basic services, social marginalization and psycho social problems. Thus, the challenges faced by OVC without birth certificates doubles their vulnerability in the society considering that birth certificates are now a prerequisite for the survival of each and every person, lack of it means life time problem. Hence, OVC without birth certificates do not only face challenges rather they are excluded from the community. Hence, an intervention requires to be made to assist these children.

5.2.2 measures taken by government to address the challenges being faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates

The study concluded that the government has put in places various measures to address the challenges being faced by OVCs in acquiring birth certificates such as mobile birth registration, legal frameworks amendments, and removal of birth registration requirements and decentralization of birth registration points. The measures by the government has worked a lot in improving the situation of OVC children thou evidence still shows that most children lack birth certificates. Thus the government proved to be making some progress in addressing the problem of birth registration in the country.

5.2.3 ways to improve child birth registration

The study concluded that there are various ways to improve child birth registration that include awareness campaigns, funding, monitoring and Evaluation. Most of the problems that results in low birth registration are related to family negligence, poor implementation of measures to address low birth registration. Therefore, communication needs to be educated and made aware of the importance of acquiring birth certificates such that they take the matter serious considering the fact that a lot of children are being deprived their lives due to lack of the birth certificates. Also lack of funding, monitoring and evaluation has resulted in some programs being less effective as such the programs needs to be fully funded and monitored and evaluated to fully achieve their purpose.

5.3 recommendations

The regulations governing birth registration and related acquisition must be more considerate of and responsive to local realities, such as guardians' illiteracy, which also contribute to children not having birth certificates.

There is need to engage local leaders in information dissemination as they are in the primary source to information.

In cases of death of a mother, there is need to empower fathers by prioritizing them to register their children rather than involving the family of the mother because the father can become the natural guardian of the child when the mother dies. Therefore, Guardianship of minors Act (5:08) needs to consider men as the natural guardian too.

The importance of birth registration should be thoroughly known by involving political leaders and allocating greater resources for informational initiatives and public awareness raising.

There is need for communities need to value the importance of birth certificate as a fundamental right of the child without involving their family issues

There is need for the government to sensitize its citizens in communities to register children soon after birth through raising awareness campaigns such that whatever happens between family members will not affect birth registration of children.

There is need to have staff development meetings and fields visit by stakeholders such that they are also aware of the cases that transpire in communities which hinder early child birth registration.

The BDRA needs to increase the categories of people that can register the birth of children. These could be such community CPCs, headmasters and guardians.

Children should be involved in the promotion of and dissemination of birth registration in both schools and communities.

There is need for the creation of legal frameworks comprehensive for civil registration and that fit the local situation and culture and is consistent with UN Standards.

Zimbabwe needs to improve the capacity for state provided counselling by ensuring that the DSD offices are child friendly, sensitive and well versed to family conflicts and that counsellors are registered with the Social Workers Council.

5.4 areas for future Research

This study adopted a qualitative Research methodology as such future Researcher can carry out the same Research using other Research methodologies

Future Researches should also focus on the ways to effectively implemented government measures in addressing challenge faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates

Further researchers must also investigate on the causing of parents or guardians' reluctance on registration child birth certificates.

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APPENDICES FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS

RESEARCH TOPIC: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES FACED BY OVC IN ACQUIRING BIRTH CERTIFICATES. A CASE RUSIKE SUBURB.

STATEMENT OF PARTICIPANT

(Please tick in the boxes)

1. I understand that the information I am going to contribute will be kept safely and securely, it will only be shared supervisors of your research.

2. I understand that I have a right to refuse to answer any specific questions during the interviews and communication and I have the opportunity to ask whatever I want to my satisfaction.

4. I understand that I am free to withdraw my consent and terminate my participation at any time by contacting the researcher without penalty.

5. I understand that the information may be published, but my name will remain anonymous.

6. I confirm that I have read the information sheet and understood the purpose of this study.

8. I agree to participate in the research study.

Participant's Name:..... Signature..... Date.....

Researcher: Signature..... Date

PARTICIPANT INTERVIEW GUIDE

My name is Elizabeth Makamba, I am currently studying social work at Bindura University of Science Education. I'm conducting an academic research for my undergraduate social work degree on the measures implemented by the government to address the challenges faced by OVC in Rusike suburb from getting birth certificates. Your comments will be kept private, and the names of those who took part won't be disclosed. The data will only be utilized for academic reasons

SECTION A: TO IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGES FACED BY OVC IN ACQUIRING BIRTH CERTIFICATES

- How many children do you have that do not have birth certificates?
- Are you aware of the importance of having a birth certificate?
- What challenges do your children face due to lack of birth certificates?
- What problems are you facing in acquiring birth certificates?

SECTION B: TO GAIN A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING ON THE MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES FACED BY OVC IN ACQUIRING BIRTH CERTIFICATES?

- Are you aware of the birth registration programs being implemented by the government?

- Do these programs address the challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates?

SECTION C: TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GOVERNMENTS MEASURES IN ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES FACED BY OVC IN ACQUIRING BIRTH CERTIFICATES

- Are the government measures on addressing challenges faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates meeting the intended beneficiaries?
- What strategies do you think can be used by the government to improve birth registration in Zimbabwe?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

APPENDICES KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE

My name is Elizabeth Makamba, I am currently studying social work at Bindura University of Science Education. I'm conducting an academic research for my undergraduate social work degree on the assessment on the measures being implemented by the government to address the challenges faced by OVC in Rusike suburb from getting birth certificates. Your comments will be kept private, and the names of those who took part won't be disclosed. The data will only be utilized for academic reasons

1. What benefits can an Orphan or a Vulnerable child gain when he or she has a birth certificate?

2. What are the regulatory frameworks that govern birth registration in relation to Orphans and Vulnerable Children?
3. Why is it impossible for parents or guardians to subscribe to Birth Registration Act of 1980 which states 42 days of registration after birth time?
4. What are the challenges that you have identified that are faced by OVC without birth certificates?
5. Are there any efforts that have been put by the government to reduce the rates of OVC without birth certificates?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



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BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Date

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST TO UNDER TAKE RESEARCH PROJECT IN YOUR ORGANISATION

This serves to advise that..... Registration No.

B..... is a BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS

DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK student at Bindura University of Science Education who is conducting a research project.

May you please assist the student to access data relevant to the study and where possible conduct interviews as part of the data collection process.

Yours faithfully

Dr. M. Zembere
ACHAIRPERSON - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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Telephone: Harare 790872/7
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ZIMBABWE

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND
SOCIAL WELFARE
Compensation House
Cnr 4th Street and Central Avenue
HARARE

15 May 2023

Elizabeth Makamba
Bindura University

REF: PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH ON TOPIC ENTITLED
" MEASURES BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES FACED BY OVC IN
ACQUIRING BIRTH CERTIFICATES"

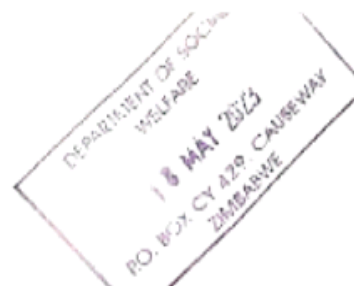
Receipt of your letter with the above-mentioned matter is acknowledged.

Please be advised that permission is hereby granted for you to carry out research on a topic entitled "Measures implemented by the government to address the challenges being faced by OVC in acquiring birth certificates. A case of Rusike suburb, Marondera". Permission is granted STRICTLY on condition that the research is for academic purposes only in pursuit of your Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Social Work. The data collected should not be shared to third parties.

Dr.E.Mtewa

CHIEF DIRECTOR-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY AFFAIRS

cC: S Masanga-Permanent Secretary
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