

Influence of Child Support Grants on Increased Birth Rate among Women of Childbearing Age in Alice Town, South Africa

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KEYWORDS Child Support Grant. Birth Rate. Poverty. Unemployment. Women

ABSTRACT This paper investigates the influence of the Child Support Grant (CSG) on increased birth rate among women of childbearing age. A qualitative research method was employed and data was collected from fifteen female participants aged between 16 and 40 years. The results of the study suggests that increased birth rate in Alice Town in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa was mainly caused by CSG in terms of its easy accessibility and the government's inability to control usage of the grant. Furthermore, it was revealed that young women refused contraceptives purposely to get pregnant in order to have access to the grant. Nevertheless, there were many other factors that emerged, which caused increased birth rate and these included lack of parental control, social exclusion, unemployment and poverty. Notably, the grant was not only benefiting the intended beneficiary only that is the child, but also the family as a whole. It was suggested that the government should check and control grant abuse by mothers and also provide community based income generating programs that would reduce dependency on CSG as a means of income.