AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN BINDURA DISTRICT

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Abstract

The study was aimed at evaluating socio-economic challenges faced by children with disabilities in Bindura District. The purpose was to find the socio-economic challenges faced by children with disabilities, establishing the extent to which children with disabilities in Bindura District are benefiting from government and other non-governmental organizations and exploring ways to improve the situation. Quantitative and qualitative research designs were used. A sample of thirty-one children with disabilities was drawn from a population of 103 children with disabilities registered under the Social Service Department. Questionnaires were administered to parents or guardians of children with disabilities as well as the children themselves. Interview guides were also used on key informants, such as NASCOH chairperson and Bindura District Social Service Officer. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics, and Excel package. From the findings, stigma and discrimination is a major challenge faced by children with disabilities amongst, financial challenges, mobility, and dependency. A few children with disabilities in Bindura are benefiting from government and other non-governmental organization. To improve the situation of children with disabilities there is need to reduce poverty amongst the disability, educating society on disability, giving children with disabilities donations and offer free medical services to this group of people. The study recommends that children with disabilities should have their own policies, rehabilitation centres, educate society about disabilities and that Government should channel more funds to this special group.