
Editorial

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This volume consists of five articles. The first article by Edmos Mtetwa entitled *The Lived Experiences of Persons with Mobility Impairments in Accessing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in Urban Zimbabwe: the Case of a Harare Suburb*, explores in detail issues relating to the rights of persons with disabilities in terms of access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. The article draws its conclusions from narratives of 10 (five men and five women) participants of a qualitative research design using in-depth interviews of lived experiences of persons with physical disabilities in a high density suburb of Harare. The narratives of men and women with physical impairments shows challenges relating to inaccessible infrastructure, inaccessible pathways to water sources, inaccessible housing, improper designs of water pumps, difficulties in accessing ablution facilities, unhygienic sanitary behaviour including open defecation and general inability to lead independent lives.

Quite often the men and women with disabilities adopted coping strategies to deal with accessibility barriers that included self-help, paying personal assistants and relying on support from well-

wishers. The absence of disability friendly infrastructure and designs posed a major barrier in terms of persons with mobility impairments' ability to access basic water, sanitation and hygiene services. It is strongly recommended that to ensure that persons with mobility impairments lead independent and dignified lives there is a need to embrace universal design principles in compliance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The second article by Emovon et al is entitled *Cross-cultural and Interracial Fostering in South Africa: Challenges Faced by non-relative Foster Parents*. A large number of vulnerable South African children are in need of care and protection. In today's South Africa the foster care programme is a major component of the formal alternative care continuum of care choices available to children in need of care and protection in South Africa. Increasingly non-relative child fostering has emerged as an alternative care continuum in the South African child protection system. However, there is limited knowledge about the challenges associated with the foster parent's status as a non-kin carer. This article draws its conclusions from a doctoral study that adopted a qualitative approach using in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to explore the experiences of foster parents caring for non-relative foster children in De Deur, Gauteng Province, South Africa. A sample of 20 non-relative foster parents who fostered children from another cultural or racial group was purposively selected from the caseload of Vereeniging Child and Family Welfare Society, De Deur satellite office.

The findings indicated that the foster parents experienced stigmatisation and discrimination; undue external interference; rejection and isolation and care scrutiny and suspicion. The study concluded that negative public perceptions and attitudes towards

non-relative foster parents are pervasive. Negative public perceptions in many ways undermine the concept of 'Ubuntu'. In some instances this leads to resentment and hamper relationship building between foster parents and foster children. It is therefore important to adopt government policy intervention and social engineering strategies for positive attitude and behaviour change.

Asiimwe and Namuggala's article *Police Housing: an Insigator of Sexual Violence against Women and Girls in Uganda* examines the impact of inadequate police housing and how this has acted as a trigger of sexual violence against girls and women. An increasing number of Uganda police officers has not been matched by an increase in housing resulting in police officers including those with families having to share houses some in single rooms. The article examines strategies utilized by Police administration to reduce the housing challenge and how these strategies have instead triggered sexual violence against women and girls. In a bid to reduce the housing crisis, improvised strategies to help accommodate the growing numbers of officers have been adopted and these include; housing several officers in one room and dividing up two roomed houses originally meant to be a sitting room and bedroom for one officer to accommodate two officers, one taking over the bedroom and the other occupying the sitting room respectively with their families. Serious sexual abuse mainly against women and girls go unreported and unpunished in the barracks.

Thus while there are strategies to reduce the problem of inadequate housing, they create new challenges mostly sexual violence. The article's findings are based on conclusions drawn from a qualitative study which employed case study design to assess female survivors' experiences of intimate partner violence. The paper recommends coming up with designing strategies to

enhance police officer's knowledge about sexual violence, government to allocate funds for improving housing, and tapping on internal resources of police officers as a source of labor for constructing more houses in the barracks.

The fourth article by Sumida and Kawata entitled *Explaining the Gender Gap in Learning Performance in Sub Saharan Africa: the Role of Household Tasks* examines whether household tasks can explain the gender gap in learning performance in six sub Saharan countries. The results are drawn from the study on data from six countries Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The results from the study show little evidence that the differences in household task engagement between boys and girls explain the gender gap in learning performance. The gender gap can be explained by other factors such as student's age, classroom environment, and maternal support.

The fifth and last article by Macklean Kirungi, Godfrey Sseremba, Katarimpika Joab Tugume, Marius Flavian Murongo, Joseph Ssekandi, and Tedson Julius Mwine entitled *Contribution of backyard farming to food and income Security: case of Kampala Metropolitan* examined food consumption scores, household dietary diversity scores and coping strategy indices for urban and peri-urban farmers practicing backyard farming. The study was conducted in the urban and peri-urban area of Kampala metropolitan area. The study sample comprised of 103 households practicing backyard farming and 97 who never practiced backyard farming. There is a positive relationship between backyard farming and food security and income of households in urban and peri-urban in Kampala Metropolitan resulting in improving food consumption scores and stabilizing food supplies. However backyard farming had little effect on household dietary diversity scores due to availability of cheap and diverse foods in the market.

There is a strong association between backyard farming and the monthly income earned by the households in Kampala. It has also been observed that benefits of backyard farming accrue more to the moderately rich and well-off households than the vulnerable poor.