

Community response in providing social services to most vulnerable children: a case of Lushoto district, Tanga region.

Tumaini Gwatalile.

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University of Dar es Salaam, College of Social Sciences, 2011.

The study was conducted in six villages, namely, Maguzoni, Yoghoi, Manolo, Nywelo, Vuga Bazo and Baghai in Lushoto District in Tanga region. The purpose of this study was to investigate community members' responses in providing social services to the most vulnerable children (MVC). Specifically, the study, identified the structural function and effectiveness of most vulnerable children committee (MVCC) on providing social services to the MVC. Also assessed strategies employed to build capacity to communities and MVCC, examined attitudes of communities in supporting social services to the MVC and examined obstacles facing communities for providing social services to the MVC. The study used a questionnaire, interviews, Focus Group Discussion and observation in obtaining primary data. Secondary data were obtained through documentary reviews. The research findings revealed that community responses in providing social services to the MVC was significantly inadequate due to lack of awareness, selfishness, poverty and negative perceptions on supporting MVC. In conclusion, the study found that community responses in providing social services to the MVC could be enhanced by several factors. Thus, community responses needs integration of many actors such as NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Government and community in general so as to solve problem. Another study is needed to investigate on the impacts of community volunteerism in development of MVC.