

Exploring the Grants Dynamics and Underpinnings Driving to Dependence Syndrome in South Africa: A Literature Review

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ABSTRACT South Africa's social security system is one of the largest in the African continent covering more than 17 million beneficiaries. This raises an alarm that the trend is likely to create a phenomenon of dependency syndrome in the country. This paper, through a literature review methodology, aimed at discussing the positive aspects of grants provision and its perfidious effects. The findings indicate that social grants prevent the poor from slipping further into poverty and settling scores of pre-apartheid imbalances. However, the following was identified as fertile grounds for breeding dependency; poorly conceptualized and implemented grant programmes and schemes; public inclination for entitlements with weak aspect of responsibilities and accountabilities; protracted unemployment; weaker developmental education concomitant with the discharge of grants; and socialization to dependence. The paper recommends on expediting the graduation principle to the grant recipients and refining the systems to distinguish between the deserving and the non-deserving grants beneficiaries.

INTRODUCTION

Sadly, despite the immense social protection embedded in the provision of social grants and cash transfers to the citizens by government of South Africa, it has been observed that continued provision of grants and relief benefits creates a state of dependency. This ends up thwarting an individual and community initiative for development (Ernest 2007). Arguably, it also results into 'killing' and discouraging local economic entrepreneurship, which later draws people into a state of chronic dependency phenomenon. Undoubtedly, the state of dependency exacerbates extreme poverty and shame among the passive beneficiaries (Ernest 2007). It also becomes a load of burden to the government and local authorities. However, and unfortunately, some people embrace the ideology and thinking that no matter what happens to the people, the state should take care of them. This becomes a psychological deformity.

The phrase dependence syndrome is operationalized in this paper to mean but not limited to a situation where the citizens modify their social and economic behaviour in anticipation of government grants or other forms of assistance. It is also a condition whereby the beneficiary or house hold depend on external sources

of assistance to meet their needs; for example from government and the NGOs to an extent that they reduce or abandon their efforts to engage in any economic productive activities (Harvey and Lind 2005; Little 2008). Simply put, it is the tendency for the recipients of regular social transfers to become permanently reliant on these hand-outs and lose any incentive to improve their circumstances using their own initiative or resources. This corroborates Ernest (2007) definition of dependency syndrome as an attitude and belief that a group cannot solve its own problems without outside help. This is contrasted by community development specialists who counteract dependency with the need to empower communities (Ernest 2007).

Observably, the social grants have been realized to breed unintended results and even fostering a culture of intolerance, rather than a culture of entrepreneurship in South Africa (Daniel 2013). This has proved right a common analogy that, 'give a man a fish and you will feed him one day, but teach him how to fish and you will feed him the rest of his life'. In this paper, the researchers argue that if the grants are not empowering in nature and designed to boost beneficiaries to graduate from poverty, then they are not progressive and should be restructured completely. Pertinently, the social grants should

empower especially the able bodied people to work, cater for their needs and contribute to their countries' economic development. In this sense, many of the citizens will be able to avoid the dependency trap. Dependency trap is a situation where individuals choose to remain eligible for social grants rather than taking reactive and proactive steps to graduate from the welfare programme (Little 2008; Gutura and Tanga 2014).

The argument above is supported by the ever increasing number of grants beneficiaries. Currently (2016) the number of grants beneficiaries stand at approximately seventeen million (17 million) while the rate of taxpayers continues to shrink (South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) 2011; Statistics SA 2016). This indicates that the number of citizens receiving grants such as child support grant, old age grant, and disability grant among others out numbers the taxpayers and the gap continues to engorge alarmingly. Perhaps the public expenditure is poised to soar significantly when the already signed bill seeking the inclusion of the unemployed graduates in South Africa gets into the inventory of grant receivers start being implemented. There is huge fear that the implementation of the bill will exacerbate the burden on the taxpayers (Kang'ethe 2014a; Gutura and Tanga 2014). It is clear therefore that South Africa is a welfare state and economists caution that the social welfare system is creating an unintended dependency and its' sustainability is questionable (Kang'ethe 2014a; Gutura and Tanga 2014). However, others are of opinion and believe that the social grants provide an important safety net for millions of poor people and it's a spring board to better opportunities. This is seen through the support of informal business activities, care for work at home and creating an avenue for other members of the family to work for a pay (SAIRR 2011). The researchers in this paper, explores the dynamics that may be leading to a state of dependency through the social grants provisioning with hope of recommending and advocating for the approaches to fight it and foster productive behaviours.

Problem Statement

Despite the good will and the efforts of the South African government to address the historical imbalances of apartheid through the provision of social grants and cash transfers, ap-

parently, the 'goal post' unintentionally has been tilted. While the primary intentions that led to the design of social security schemes and programmes such as Child Support Grant (CSG), Old Age Grants (OAG), Disability Grant (DG), Basic Income Grant (BIG) among others was to alleviate poverty and create a state of self-sufficiency and self-reliance. However, these results have not been achieved desirably. Statistics indicates that about one third of the country's population relies on grants as the only source of income (Statistics South Africa 2015, Statistics SA 2016). This casts doubt of this population's capacity to contribute to economic development; and also their motivation to try something else for their lives. Apparently, there is a dreadful 'intoxication' of grants and welfare, where able bodied people under schemes are no-longer interested to seek work, engage in entrepreneurial activities to meet their daily needs. In this paper, therefore, the researchers intend to explore the discharge of social grants in South African and provide a critical analysis on how the grants scheme relates to undesirable behaviour instead of the intended goals. The paper also endeavours to establish strategies to mitigate if not to annihilate this culture and seek to promote self-reliance.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of this paper is to critically scrutinize and analyse the phenomenon of dependency embedded in the provisioning of social welfare in South Africa. In so doing, it will illuminate and enlighten the governments' authorities and the citizens on appropriate methods for administering grants in an effort to empower and create awareness as well as sensitize the citizens about the shortcomings of the grants schemes.

METHODOLOGY

This paper has utilized a desktop or literature review methodology. The researchers have made use of available data from journal articles, Newspapers, eclectic reports, and websites of relevant government departments to strengthen their observations and experiences on this matter. The methodology is appropriate in this discourse because much of the information the researchers seek to analyse are interspersed in these aforementioned sources. The main guid-

ing questions were. What are the positive aspects of the providing social grants in South Africa? What are negative outcomes of those grants schemes? What are the factors behind the continued state of dependence embedded in the grants schemes? What are the strategies to address these challenges?

Theoretical Framework

This paper is premised on the Learned Helplessness theory borrowed from psychological perspective that individuals succumb to continued undesirable situations hence failing to look for ways to avoid it in future. The theory originally was propounded by an American psychologist Martin Seligman in 1967. The extension of the theory has been applied to explain various human behaviours. For instance, it is argued that the poor people continue to be improvised by the thinking mentality that they cannot go out of poverty cycle (Ruby 2005). However, in this paper, this theory is operationalized to fit into a situation where the citizen's depend on the government machineries to meet their needs whereas they are passive recipients. The citizens learn to receive their incomes from the government and perceive it as the only way to earn living, with less self-motivation to earn income from other activities. When this condition is prolonged for a period of time, the citizens' fall into the dependency trap, revolve within the dependency cycle and finally suffer from dependency syndrome.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Panacea and Perfidy Associated With the Provisioning of Social Grants in the South Africa

Despite blame put on the provisioning of social grants in South Africa for fostering a state of dependency, these researchers believe social grants have a cardinal and central role against poverty and imbalances. Social grants provide impetus for entrepreneurs and mitigation of other forms of social ills among the citizens. Perhaps, the precarious circumstances in which most people especially of Black race were during the Apartheid era prompted both remedial and institutional support in form of grants and free government services such as free medical

care (Kang'ethe 2014a; Gutura and Tanga 2014). Therefore, it is imperative to appreciate the better side of social grants, and also shun off the evil effects that disguises in these benefits.

Understanding of Dependency Syndrome

Seemingly, the benefits associated with social welfare are debatable. For instance, Kibrea and Van Uffelen (1993) have challenged the concept of dependency syndrome by arguing that it is a myth and a stereotype rather than a reality. They further contended that people like refugees need not to be blamed for depending on food aid or government hand-outs. This is because they may have used all the available resources at their disposal to cope with the crisis and to improve their situation (Kibrea and Van 1993). The researchers in this paper do critically differ with this contention because the argument is based on a weak phenomenological comparison. In this case, the researchers argue that dependency syndrome develops when people have the opportunities to improve their lives but they remain redundant or unwilling to seize such opportunities to improve their own lives. This is completely opposite to the situation of refugees who are homeless and vulnerable to absorb the shocks of life. On contrary, the social grants recipients, and especially those on temporary dysfunctional should not be viewed so vulnerable and be kept in the system for over extended period.

Grants Prevent the Poor from Slipping Into More Poverty

The South African government has been praised for spending its' part of national revenue in an effort to protect the poor from getting poorer (*Sunday Times, Business*, 16th November 2014). Echoed by World Bank Report on 'fiscal policy and redistribution in unequal society', this spending makes the difference between life and near-death for millions of South Africans who have little chance of being included in the main stream economy.

Observably, it is important to note and emphasize that while many social protection programmes may seem to create dependency, they also tend to reap some significant benefits in long-run. This is evidential especially with the Child Grants, school feeding programmes and

cash transfers, all which provide immediate relief to the poor households, but also enhance children health, nutrition and access to education (Wahenga 2010). This provides great potential returns to the national economy by equipping and preparing a workforce for the subsequent generations (Wahenga 2010). Therefore, there are mixed outcomes embedded in the provisioning of the social grants and the government should be vigilant enough and engage in critical analysis to ensure the benefits supersede the costs.

From these researchers' observations, social grants have been providing temporary moments of normality reflected in the buying and selling of goods and services during the pay days in the local markets and shopping malls. During pay days, the beneficiaries are able to pay for electricity bills, buy groceries; experience some immense social capital through affording healthy interaction and hence fostering social integration and cohesion (Kang'ethe 2014b). Significantly, the electronic payment of cash transfers has other addendum benefits. This is because it enhances technology education as the beneficiaries use the Automated Money Machines (ATM) to withdraw their entitlements. This means that people are getting to learn and use technology at their disposal. While the issue of dependence syndrome will always be an undesirable unintended result of the grants, these researchers are concerned of the future sustainability of the grants schemes in South Africa. However, if such grants were to be withdrawn in an endeavour to avoid or mitigate the unintended results of the grants, will the impact not cause precarious and despondent results? Perhaps these are some of the debates that the scholars need to engage in with the hope of coming up with a pragmatic and plausible pursuit of the grant system in the country. But as the debate rages on, these researchers argue that other than the unintended results, the government needs to put in place a welfare mechanism to fill up many glaring imbalances that had been created by the Apartheid government prior to 1994 (Maria 2007).

Grants as Panacea to Settle Score of Pre-apartheid Imbalances

The main objective of instituting a large social welfare system in South Africa is arguably

as a responsive mechanism for addressing the imbalances and legacy bequeathed by the Apartheid regime (Maria 2007). The grants system according to these researchers is considered to be a panacea for the healing of the society through sharing of the 'national cake' between the haves and have-nots. It is also a remedial form of treatment with the hope that those remedied will be better off to start managing themselves. Optimistically, the grant beneficiaries and their households especially those receiving child and old age grants are motivated to seek paid work compared to the families who do not receive the grants (Wahenga 2010). Therefore, social welfare through the discharge of the grants has an empowering and a social functioning effect to the beneficiaries. And indeed these are some of the central goals of social work in every corner of the globe (Segal et al. 2007; Sheafor and Horejsi 2008). The implication is that the grants plays an enabling role in linking the beneficiaries and their families to resources and economic security and gives them the opportunity to invest more in job searching. For example, by spending a chunk of their monies on transport cost and child care (Wahenga 2010). Notably, the government's transfers in forms of social grants, free basic services, free health services, and education has been recorded to have pushed the households' income from as low as R 200 per person in the year 2010-2011 to an average of R2 331 in 2014 which is still disparate but more manageable as compare to the past (*Sunday Times, Business* 16th November 2014).

Social Grants Shield Against Absolute Poverty

According to UNICEF (2008), social grants in South Africa reduced child poverty by thirteen percent (13%) in the period 2002-2008. This implies that if children are discontinued from the inherited poverty, and shielded against all form of social ills such as poor health, malnutrition and improper schooling, then there will be a productive nation with less burden of poverty in future. Moreover, it has been observed that, expanded social welfare and other types of grants provided by the Department of Social Development have greatly improved the lives of millions of beneficiaries, including women and children (David et al. 2009; SASSA 2010). The policy on social grants decreased the incidence of pover-

ty amongst individuals by at least fifteen per cent (15%) in South Africa (UNICEF 2008). Despite this progress, however, these researchers' observations and experiences is that many people in South Africa continue to live in shanty and informal dwellings strewn across all cities in the country.

In the same vein, the grant system has received many critics for being inadequate and not a durable or a sustainable solution to address poverty or food insecurity in the long-run (Tanga 2007). It is therefore important that the government be advised to advance social welfare schemes in such a way that it will be both reactive and proactive. This will ensure that the beneficiaries are empowered through adoptable ventures, training and job preparedness to reduce the state of dependency (Kang'ethe 2014a). The researchers in this paper, therefore, caution that if the beneficiaries are not empowered to overcome the hurdles of life by their own means, the fiscal burden on the government will continue to burgeon to an extent of unsustainability and henceforth causing more socio-economic challenges in future.

Possible Underpinnings of Dependency Syndrome in South Africa

Apparently, there are factors that underpin and exacerbate the emergent and growth of dependency syndrome in South African welfare schemes. The following dynamics were identified in this regard:

Miss-conceptualized and Un-developmental Implemented Grant Schemes

Despite the applause given to South African government by World Bank on its well-targeted and quite sizeable cash transfers, it has been given a stunning warning that poorly targeted or designed social programmes often results in the benefits leaking to higher income groups. This is one of issues the government and the social grants discharging bodies have not been able to curb (*Sunday Times Business*, 16th November 2014). Apparently, the citizens have allegedly been reported of manipulating the system by falsifying their details in order to qualify for the grants (Edwin 2010; Andrew 2011). This indicates that the means used for testing have not been so strict to pin down undeserving cat-

egories from accessing the benefits. For instance, research reveal some of these gaps where one person had been given two Reconstruction Development Programme (RDP) houses while others are still living in squalor circumstances having been in the waiting queue for many years (Kang'ethe and Manomano 2014). Therefore, when the grants discharging bodies become less vigilant there is likelihood of the beneficiaries to take advantage of the scheme as the only way out to make heads meet.

Moreover, critically looking at the approach in discharging the grants fails the developmental rigor and tends to focus more on relief aspects of the beneficiaries. Then the social grants becomes nothing less but hand-outs as citizens conceive them as their rights.

Public Inclination for More Entitlements and Less Responsibility and Accountability

Arguably, long-term provision of social grants to people in need of assistance leads to creation of dependency syndrome (Grosh 2008; Bram 2011). This is a dreadful experience prevalent within South African social welfare scheme. The major concerns are that, the beneficiaries lose the motivation to work to improve their livelihoods after receiving benefits, or they deliberately reduce their work efforts in order to remain vulnerable hence qualify for the benefit transfers for as long period of time as possible. These are some of the unintended results of the grants scheme (Grosh 2008; Bram 2011; Gutura and Tanga 2014). According to *Eastern Cape Newspaper* of 21st November 2014, the columnist highlighted concerns that were raised by the executive director at Care-Link a Not for Profit Organization that when they interview candidates for jobs, they find there is no work ethic mind-set in them especially those raised from the rural communities who have to adapt to the urban lifestyles and work ethics mentality. Moreover, the executive director pointed out that, due to the political atmosphere in South Africa, youths and graduates from universities and colleges alike have a sense of entitlement and feel they don't have to make an effort to get a job (*Eastern Cape Newspaper* of 21st November 2014). This therefore jeopardizes the productivity of the nation in future.

Comparatively, in Ethiopia, due to severe food insecurity for decades, the citizens have

been blamed for being dependent on the foreign food Aid. This has resulted into the country being once listed as one of the largest Aid recipient in the world (Frankenbegger 2007). Perhaps, the situation in Ethiopia would partly compare to the grant recipient's size in South Africa. In 2010, for example, it was estimated that 8 million people in Ethiopia were in dire need of food and depended on the foreign Aid for survival (Frankenbegger 2007). In this regard, the government's officials and other critical development actors attribute the beneficiaries' dependency on Aid as the cause of the Ethiopian government's failure to address the food insecurity quagmire. Apparently, the conditions can be attributed to the South African enlargement of social welfare every year.

Moreover, the state of dependency in South Africa can be compared to that of refugees in other African countries such as those from Somalia and other war torn areas. In connection to this, the refugees have been accused of developing dependency on relief aid and having lost to a large extent the will and ability to work, earn an income and fend for themselves (Kibrea 2007). However, the bone of contention is that the refugees are tied up in circumstances that are beyond their control such as civil wars and droughts hence being more vulnerable compared to the South African social grants beneficiaries who are also dependent. It is significantly important for the government to redesign the grants scheme systems to be more developmental.

For instance, the government of South Africa can borrow the ideal techniques used by Aid agencies that have also been fighting 'tooth and nail' to exorcise the state of dependency syndrome. For example, the agencies adopt strategies such as regulation or rationing of what they provide, when they provide, how they provide, and who they provide to. In this way, the government will also be able to pin out undeserving beneficiaries and the social welfare system will have a better impact in the long run. Moreover, harmonizing policies that disfavour poor people in market economy is paramount. Importantly, promotion of self-reliance and granting access to socio-economic opportunities is unavoidable in fight against dependency syndrome in South Africa.

Importantly, the South African citizens should understand that as long as they have the right to entitlements of various kinds from the government, they should also embrace various kinds of responsibilities and accountabili-

ties. The recipients of the grants for example should be made to understand they pose a burden to the taxpayers' money. Such an understanding should drive them to work round the clock to see to it that, they fast graduate from being grant recipients. This further means that as much as the citizens want to hold the government accountable, they must in turn be accountable for their own spending behaviours. Perhaps reported cases of misuse of the grants transfers through drug abuse, alcohol and prostitution rather than using it for rightful purposes makes the taxpayers very uncomfortable with the recipients. By having a sense of responsibility, every grant or welfare beneficiary will properly utilize the funds for present and future wellbeing.

Protracted Unemployment in the Country

The state of massive and prolonged unemployment in South Africa can be blamed for the breeding and growth of dependency behaviour in South Africa. With the consequence of the state of unemployment failing to be tackled at the right time, and with no adequate mechanisms of sustainability being put into place, this can lead into a state of 'aspiration failure' (Frankenbegger 2007). Aspiration failure refers to the lack of systematic pro-active efforts to better one's future (Frankenbegger 2007). complementarily, Bram (2011) puts it in a more 'dangerous' term when he links it to 'fatalism' where one comes into acceptance with circumstance of life and lack of pro-active and systematic efforts to better one's life.

Indubitably, continued unemployment aggravates poverty and many other social maladies such as violence, food insecurity, drug abuse among the youth, state of hopelessness and demoralization to work (Kang'ethe 2014).

According to the *Eastern Cape Newspaper* on 21st November 2014, lack of job vacancies, bribery and nepotism continue to prevent many graduates from participating in the job markets. In such cases, the youth end up being more vulnerable and the only way to survive is to wait on grants with less motivation to earn income.

Lack of Developmental Education Concomitant with Social Welfare

Apparently, there exists ambiguous dissemination and misconception of information about social grants and the intended objectives to be achieved through the system. Arguably, lack of

proper communication is blamed for the breeding of dependency syndrome (Rasila and Mudau 2013). This is because the political parties and the government have entrenched the notion that they will provide 'all for all people' without underscoring the contributions and responsibilities of the citizens to the success of the social welfare programme in South Africa at large. This has created a falsified mind-set among the citizens that the government should provide everything for all and it is responsible for their survival. This calls for the need of vivid communication and information dissemination through creation of awareness and training the citizens to understand government's obligations and in turn know their rights and obligations in meeting their needs in order to lessen the public burden.

Emphatically, the exhibition of such dependent behaviours are against the RDP (Reconstruction Development Programme) objectives which are people driven and based on the fact that development cannot be achieved by just delivery of goods to passive citizenry, but it is about active involvement and growing empowerment (Rasila and Mudau 2013). In connection to that, there has been an observation that young mothers and girls at times resolve to give birth at a tender age in order to qualify for the child grant. Some go to an extent of having many children to raise more stipends from the child grant (Rasila and Mudau 2013). It is unfortunate that this behaviour robs them of various opportunities of participating in economic development activities; and have to malingering in school that usually results in school dropout. To some extent, the phenomenon has also led to moral decadency in the country (Kang'ethe and Khayundi 2014). It is worrying that such behaviours may lead into other health complications such as contracting HIV/AIDs among other sexually transmitted diseases hence becoming another burden to the public expenditure (Kang'ethe and Khayundi 2014).

Of great interest, the misconception of information on social welfare has led to a phenomenon whereby the citizens from the neighbouring countries cross the South African borders so as to deliver babies in South Africa in order to qualify as a grant beneficiary (support child grant) (Rasila and Mudau 2013). Therefore, the foreseen danger of the social welfare programme in South Africa is exacerbated by misinformation and mistruths about the discharge of the wel-

fare. While provision of the grants was supposed to be a safety net for the citizens, it has become a platform of embedded laziness, mediocrity and non-performance and aggravated poverty. The country, no doubt stands to lose immensely, while the issue of sustainability of the grants remains oblivion.

Socialization to Dependence and 'Inherited Dependency Syndrome'

The researchers in this paper staunchly believe that the current emerging South African dependency has assumed a hereditary path. It is a regrowth of the African continent's dependency on its colonial masters during the colonial subjugation. Furthermore, even after the African states gained their independence from as early as in 1957 (Ghana) to as late as 1994 (South Africa) and latest in 2011 (South Sudan), nearly all of them have not been able to break the umbilical cord of colonialism economically, politically, culturally, socially, religiously and technologically. Those who have tried to cut-off the cord have found themselves in pool of economic and political quagmire (Edwin 2010). Therefore, African continent has been forced to depend on their past colonial masters on many matters of development. It can therefore be deduced that such affiliations of the states to their colonizers translate to the deeply rooted dependency of the citizens to the state assistance.

Critically, observers note that with advent of African independence, dependence increased on foreign Aid rather than decreasing (Edwin 2010). Ironically, despite the attempted efforts of African countries coming up with mechanism of reducing dependency on foreign Aid and other assistance for instance through New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), African Union (AU), ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC among others, they are still gummed on 'stretching a begging and borrowing hand' from the oversea masters, a condition that has been described as 'kneepad' (Edwin 2010). This also needs development practitioners and researchers to find ways of advising countries to be self-reliant and minimize on dependence.

The fascinating question would be, if the government is suffering from dependency syndrome, how then would the citizens escape from this contagious behaviour?

Moreover, dependency syndrome can be attributed to human inherited characteristics such

the strength of cultural demands on an individual or a groups of individuals (Mental Health 2006). For instance, the men being providers and women being dependent on men in the hierarchical order (traditionally African cultural context) tends to breed some kind of dependence of which, if not attended to it ends up causing dependency syndrome. Incontrovertibly, there is dependency created through parental demands when the children tend to depend on their parents for the daily up keep and survival (Mental Health 2006; Ernest 2007). In this case, many children are likely not to be motivated to develop innovative ways of dealing and meeting their own needs in future. Comparatively, partners' demands too have been noted to exacerbate the creation and favouring the development of dependency among households (Mental Health 2006). This emanates from relationships where the lover or friends manipulates the relationship so as to control the behaviours of their partners. This kind of relationship can be seen as a replica when the government manipulates the behaviour of citizens through the grants and other benefits' transfers in order to keep them in power. Significantly, this leads to what may be referred to as co-dependency. Co-dependency is where people put the needs of their partners ahead of their own needs (Ernest 2007). When this happens, the receiving partner becomes more selfish and dependent on the other.

Deductively, these situations relates to social grants provisioning in South Africa when viewed politically. For instance, when the ruling government make the beneficiaries stay in provisioned continuum as long as possible and making them appear as helpless as possible in order to ensure continued Aid to support their regime. Looking back from 2010 to date (2016), statistics on grants beneficiaries continues to soar significantly (SASSA 2010; Gutura 2011; Statistics SA 2016). The graph continues to grow positively in favour of recipients against that of self-reliant and self-sustainable citizens. This is critical in that the government can be accused of not mobilizing and sensitizing its population to shun off dependency and embrace a state of self-reliance.

CONCLUSION

All societies should accept and embrace the fact that certain category of the members in the

society must be supported. Such members include the children, older persons, the chronically ill and the disabled persons (the deserving poor). Indubitably, a stronger social welfare is considered a panacea especially where a huge chunk of the population is needy. This is more critical in South Africa where a larger population suffered racial and economic segregation under the aegis of Apartheid regime for centuries. Undeniably, social welfare through the administration of various social grants has endeavoured to address the inherent imbalances and inequalities. Unfortunately and unintentionally, the administration has led to a state of dependency syndrome. Dependency syndrome in South Africa has been associated with socialization to dependency, lack of development education accompanying social benefits, protracted unemployment and poor work ethics and attitudes. Seemingly, the government can be blamed for creating an environment that perpetuates a state of dependency among its citizens by lack of promotive strategies towards public self-sufficiency and development. Therefore, there is need to seek durable solutions for grants recipients through plausible mechanisms such as women empowerment, enhancement of sustainable development, capacity building, policies that promote self-reliance and entrepreneurial autonomy. Importantly, the provision of social grants should be accompanied by vigorous developmental education on the benefits and perfidious effects of the programme. The principle of graduation should be a priority to the able bodied beneficiaries. This paper advocates for NGOs, governments and other concerned bodies to pull the resources together in an endeavour to exterminate dependency syndrome in South African social welfare system; to poster and bolster the state of self-reliance and independence. Finally, the public should motivate themselves and wear determination gowns to avoid situations of dependence. The citizens should yearn to be responsible, accountable and be determined to graduate from the welfare schemes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Expedite Graduation of Grant Recipients

Importantly, there are viable strategies and mechanism that can be adopted by the government of South Africa in an attempt to extinguish

or 'exorcise' the phenomenon of dependency among its citizens. One of the most important entails embracing the graduation principle, with a closer monitoring and evaluation of the beneficiaries by the experts to apply it.

It is vital that financial and other assistance to the needy individuals and families in distress be limited in scale and time in order to avoid drawing them into dependency trap. Importantly, complementary programmes should be put in place to ensure that the beneficiaries are able to graduate from hand outs and become self-reliant.

Restructuring of the Grants' Administering Systems

There is need to intensify advocacy campaigns against dependency syndrome, laying emphasis on change of systems for administering social grants. The notion that the government is levelling the ground by just providing grants is not developmental. The fact that 33% of the South African population rely on grants as the only source of livelihood poses an economic burden to the tax payers.

Grant Provision Should be Accompanied by Public Education

People should be taught how to fish and not just be given fish every day. The social welfare provision in South Africa should be accompanied by developmental education such as inculcating the people with the spirit of entrepreneurial skills especially among the youths and women so that they can be empowered economically. This will enable them to meet their needs in future and shun off dependency syndrome. Moreover, the government should ensure that every receipt of social grants is strengthened and capacitated to use the funds received properly for self enhancement.

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