



Child Protection Concerns: Situation of Girls in Fishing Camps in Binga, Zimbabwe

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ABSTRACT This paper sought to investigate vulnerability of the girl child as a child protection concern in fishing camps in Binga, Zimbabwe. The paper discusses the factors attracting the girl child in fishing camps, the protection challenges the girl child faced and the vulnerability indicators of the girl child in fishing camps. A qualitative methodology was employed through the use of focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and key informant interviews. A purposive sample of 15 girls under the age of 18 years and 5 key informants was drawn. Findings of the study indicated that poverty was the main drive for the girl children to flock to the fishing camps in Binga. Records of early marriages, teenage pregnancies, HIV/ AIDS infection, school dropout and sexual abuse and exploitation were prone in the study area. Girls' vulnerability in fishing camps in Binga creates an alarm for the duty bearers to focus their attention towards assisting the succumbing girl child. Though the study focused on the girl child, there is need to consider a separate study for the other social groups.