

CHANGING CLASS

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

Emerging Voices

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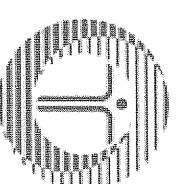
in South Africa

Investigation of the quality of care of
orphans provided by grandparents in
semi-rural communities of South Africa

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Conference, Univ. of Witwatersrand, 28-2 July 2009.

Aim of the Research

- This paper investigated whether grandparents, are inadequate carers as is often claimed in the literature
 - Access to critical services – e.g., birth certificates, grants and schools
 - Nutrition status – e.g., meals intake

Background

- High increase in the number of orphans – children <18 yrs, have lost one of both parents
- Correlation with HIV/AIDS prevalence and adult mortality
- Grandparents main carers
- Quality of care is suspicious – too infirm, poor, lack education

Research site

- Kopanong is a semi-rural local municipal area
- Comprises 9 towns - 55,945 inhabitants
- High level of unemployment and migration
- Low income levels – mostly grants and/remittances
- High levels of poverty

Research Methodology

- Census study of Kopanong community in 2003 by HSRC
- Targeted all previously disadvantaged communities – 5254 households
- Reached 98% households
- A two-page census record sheet used to collect information about each household and
- This analysis looks at orphan status, type of carer, access to birth certificates, grants, school attendance and meals intake

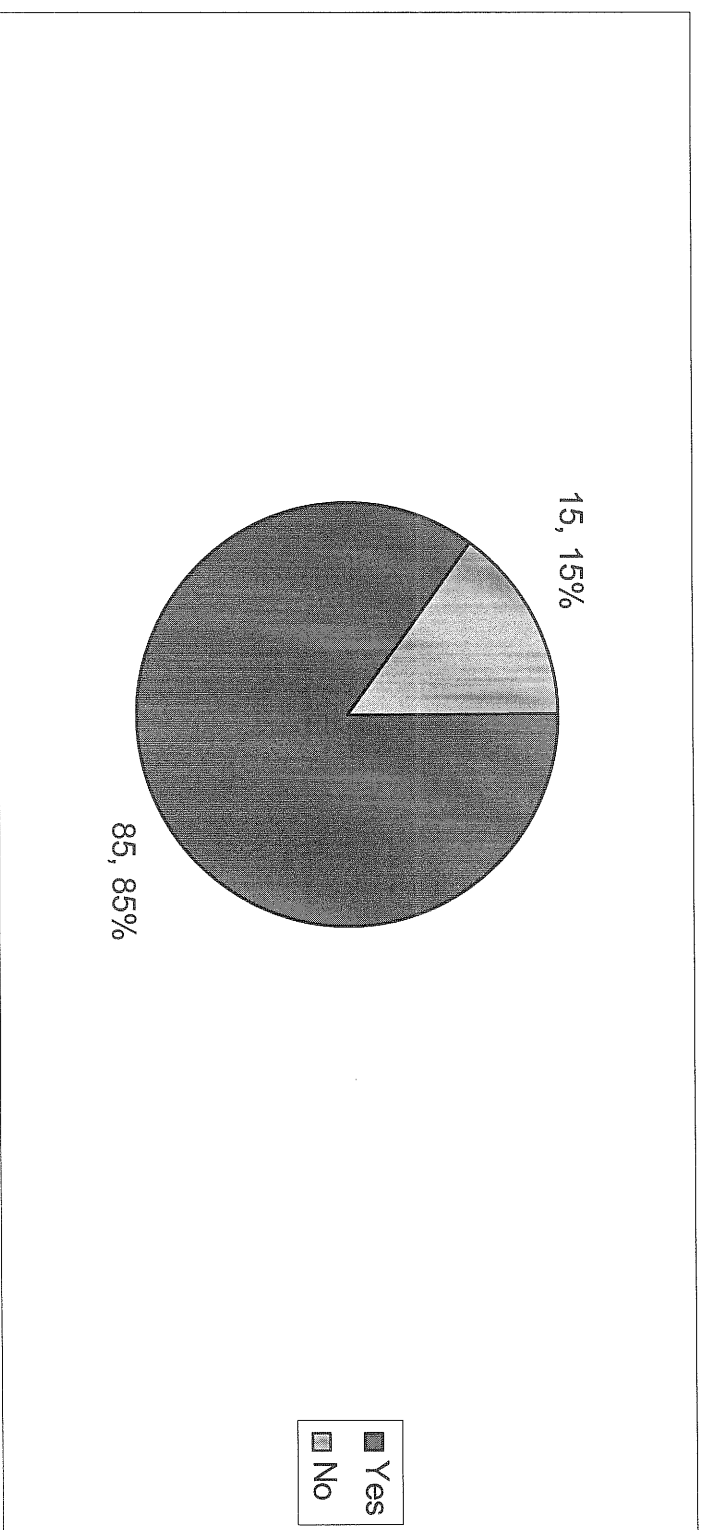
Findings - orphan prevalence

Child status	Frequency	Valid Percent
Non-orphans	5440	66.6
Lost mother only	528	6.5
Lost father only	1546	18.9
Lost both parents	649	8.0
Total	8163	100.0

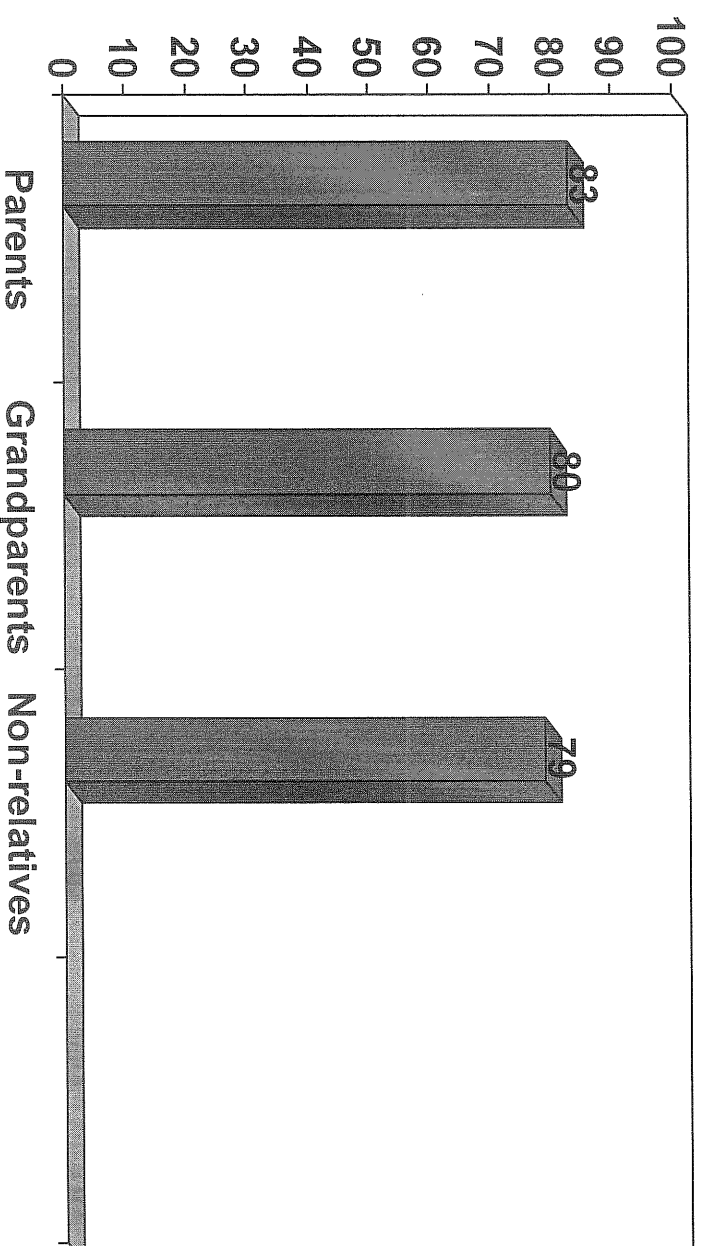
Findings – care for orphans

Relation to child	Non-orphan N (%)	Lost mother N (%)	Lost father N (%)	Lost both N (%)
Biological	162 (63.5)	9 (11.8)	55 (60.4)	0 (0.0)
Grandparent	63 (24.7)	44 (57.9)	27 (29.7)	19 (61.3)
Other relative	28 (11.0)	18 (23.7)	8 (8.8)	12 (38.7)
Non-relative	2 (0.8)	5 (6.6)	1 (1.1)	0 (0.0)
Total	255 (100)	76 (100)	91 (100)	31 (100)

Findings – access to birth certificates

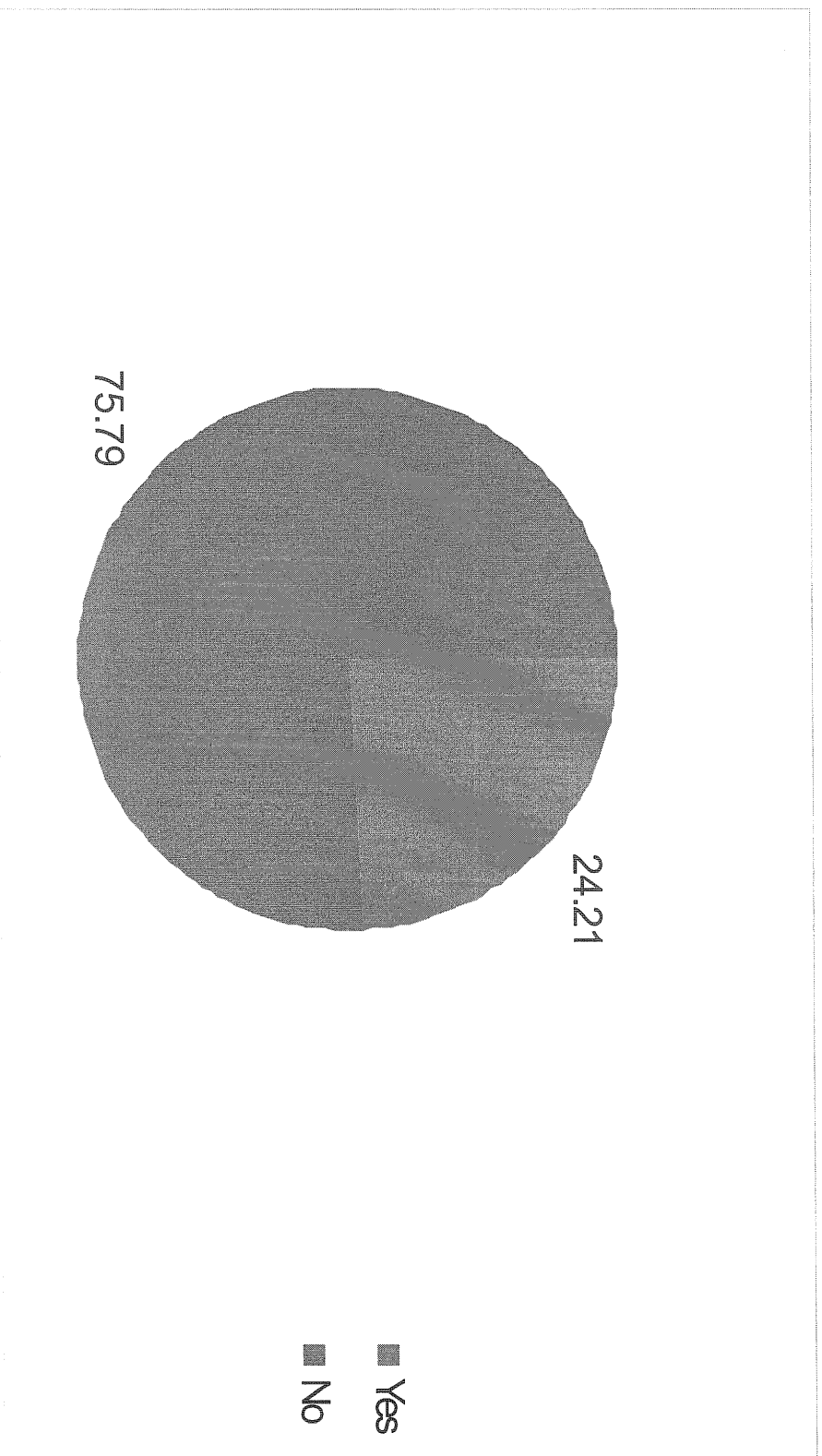


Findings - Access to birth certificates by caregiver

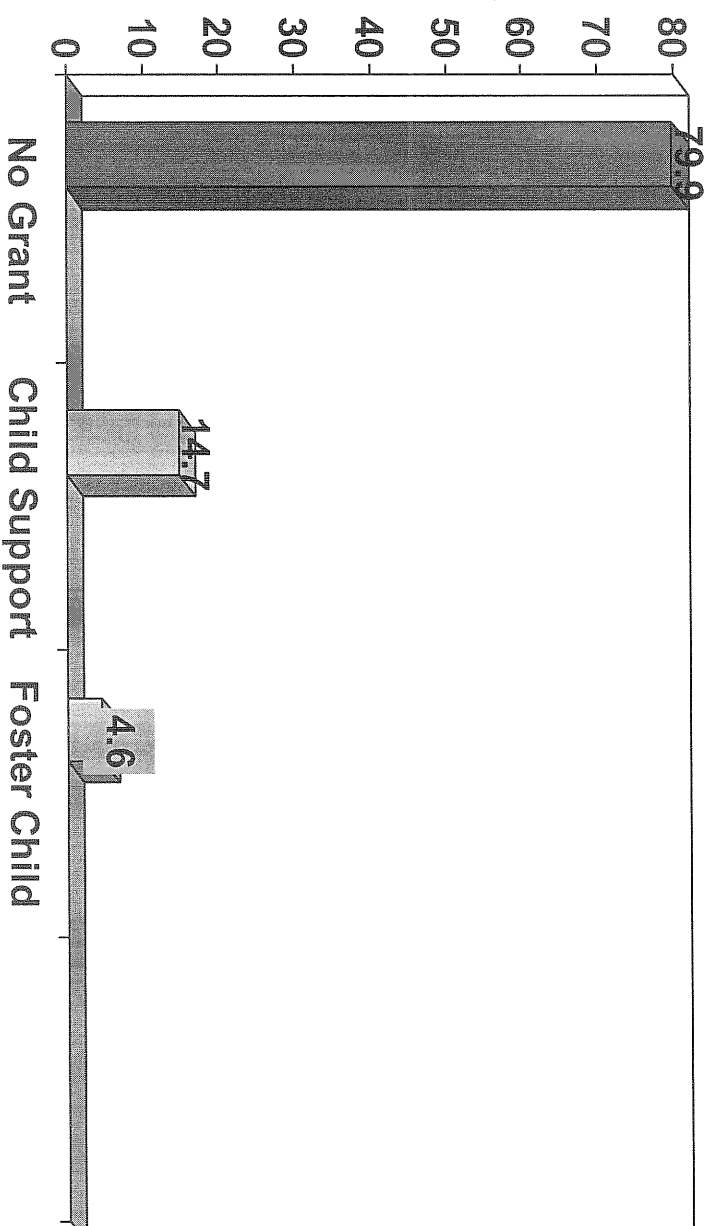


Source: HSRC OVC, 2003

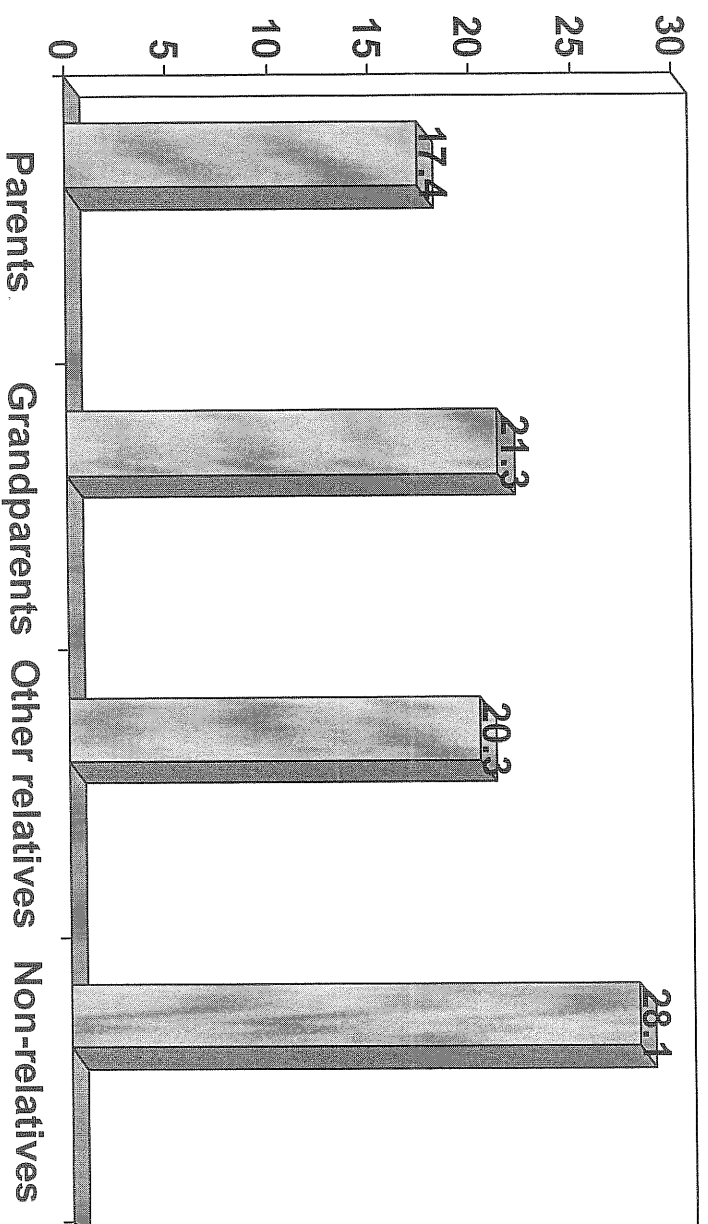
Findings - Access to social grants



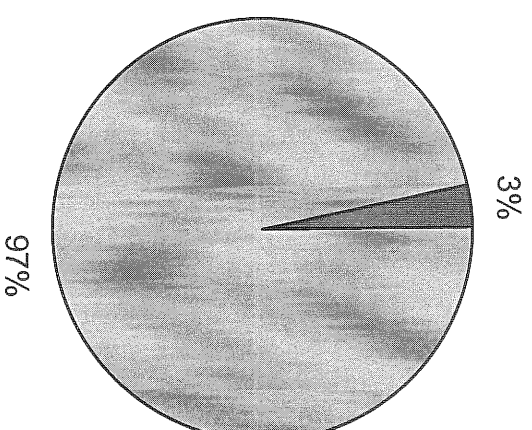
Findings – type of child grants



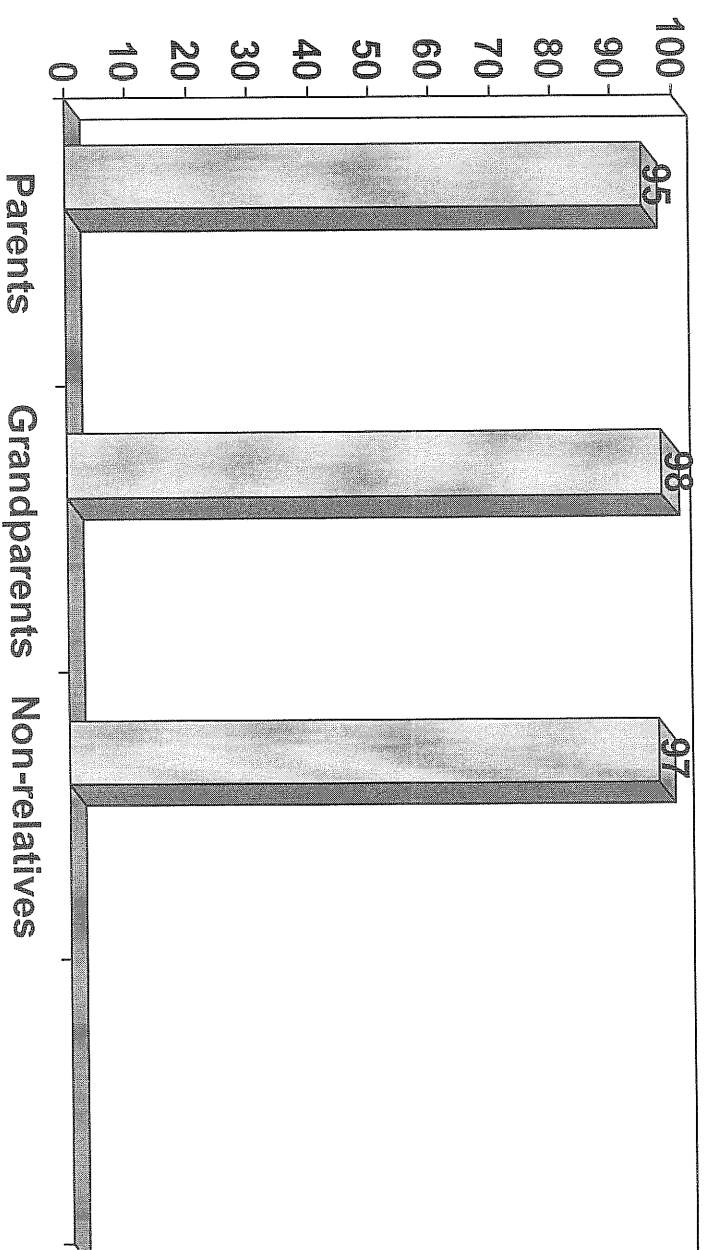
Findings – Access to grants by carer



Findings – school attendance



Findings - School attend by carer



Findings - Meals intake

Meals per day	Biological child N (%)	Grandchild N (%)	Other relative N (%)	Not related N (%)
Once	10 (1.6)	33 (2.3)	1 (0.9)	47 (2.6)
Two or more	626 (98.5)	1391 (97.7)	110 (99.1)	2463 (98.1)
Total	636 (100)	1424 (100)	111 (100)	2510 (100)

Conclusion

- No evidence to suggest that the quality of care provided by grandparents is poor, as measured by access to critical services and nutrition status
- Poverty is ubiquitous in Kopanong
- Burden of additional members is serious
- **Who will look after orphans in absence of grandparents???**