

## **Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on children and its implications for social work practice in Zimbabwe: a review of literature**

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### **Abstract**

As the world is seized with the precarious impact of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, it connotes that the welfare of the historically disadvantaged groups such as children and women remain a challenge. Notwithstanding the low infection rate of the virus on children, it is no doubt that the impact of the pandemic has multifariously affected the welfare of children in countries such as Zimbabwe. The lockdown measures introduced to curb the spread of the virus in Zimbabwe from March 2020 to January 2021 were devoid of social protection modalities for children whose future stand to be annihilated by the impact of COVID-19. As such, the impact of COVID-19 amplifies the calamities of children. This study adopted the qualitative research approach guided by the descriptive design. The collection of data was mainly literature review of journal articles, national reports and evidence other forms of empirical literature. A Critical Discourse Analysis was followed to analyse the data from which the findings were derived. This study established that owing to the COVID-19 induced lockdown in Zimbabwe there has been evidence of child labour, neglect, early marriages, delinquent behaviour and school dropout. The challenges faced by children fall within the purview of the social work mandate despite social workers not taking the lead in addressing these impacts. The study recommends that the Zimbabwe should introduce vibrant social protection systems that cater for the plights of children in the wake of disasters such as COVID-19.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Children, Social Work, Zimbabwe.

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