THE EFFICACY OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES IN ZIMBABWE: THE CASE OF THE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF WIDOWS IN SIKALENGE WARD OF BINGA DISTRICT

DUBE, Misheck  
Department of Social Work, University of Zululand,  
KwaDlangezwa,  
South Africa

ABSTRACT

Widows who have experienced property grabbing suffer untold socio-economic and psychological consequences. This is common in Zimbabwe and many other African societies where their husbands die intestate. Empowerment for the widows who become victims is very crucial for social work intervention. The study discusses empowerment for widows who experience property stripping. It further discusses social work intervention strategies. The study was qualitative in nature. Employing a non-probability purposive sampling technique, the study used semi-structured interviews to collect data from ten widows. The data collected from the widows were analysed thematically to enable textual presentation of the findings from the empowerment needs of the widows. The finding indicated the need for empowerment as a social work intervention as the usual legal intervention proved to be inaccessible and incomprehensible enough to meet the needs of the widows after the property has been stripped from them.

*Keywords: Widows, Empowerment, Property Stripping, Social Work, Zimbabwe.*