

## ABSTRACT

*The study was an investigation into children's participation in Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), programmes in ward 18 of Magwegwe District. According to the Zimbabwe National Action Plan (NAP) for OVC, children have the right to participate in all matters that affect them including national policies. The problem was investigated qualitatively using the methodologies of document analysis, focus group discussion and interviews for triangulation purposes. The findings and results confirmed the hypothesis adopted in the study that in spite of the guidelines and policy frameworks about involving children in all levels of programme planning, NGOs still compromise child participation in programmes meant to enhance their welfare and wellbeing. The study revealed the levels of understanding of child participation from the NGOs, the community leadership and the children themselves, which can be used to further help and guide implementation of the NAP for OVC in a way that will enhance children's programme ownership and subsequently benefit. Recommendations to address the situation were suggested for the consideration of the government for policy changes and enforcement, NGOs for guided programming and adherence to national policies, the community leadership and the children. Government should empower child protection committees, NGOs to improve on community leadership and children consultations and communities to be trained on children's rights.*