

Review of:

An evaluation of ethical aspects of philanthropic strategies employed by charitable organisations operating in Mongu district of Western Zambia

by

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In the realm of academic inquiry and social responsibility, the dissertation titled "An Evaluation of Ethical Aspects of Philanthropic Strategies Employed by Charitable Organizations Operating in Mongu District of Western Zambia" stands as an illuminating beacon, shedding light on a subject often shrouded in darkness. Authored by an insightful researcher whose passion for ethical philanthropy and societal well-being resonates throughout the text, this dissertation marks a significant contribution to the understanding of the ethical dimensions of charitable activities in the context of developing nations.

The dissertation opens with a compelling rationale, addressing the historical context of charitable organizations in Zambia, highlighting the longstanding presence of NGOs in the country. The author rightly emphasizes the scarcity of knowledge regarding the ethical obligations and operating strategies of these organizations, attributing the information gap to the absence of relevant national governing policies. This gap, as the dissertation argues, extends to Mongu district, where despite an influx of charitable organizations, there is a dearth of understanding regarding the ethical aspects of their philanthropic strategies.

The clarity and precision with which the dissertation establishes its research objectives are commendable. The author's choice to focus on Mongu district is strategic, recognizing the unique combination of characteristics in the town – a smaller population, vast land surface area, chronic high poverty levels, and a notable presence of NGOs. This careful selection of the local context enriches the study, providing insights that are not only valuable within the specified time and space but also possess broader implications for similar contexts globally.

One of the strengths of this dissertation lies in its thorough examination of the prevailing situation in Zambia, where, as noted, there is no national policy governing the NGO sector, including charities. The inclusion of the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services as a primary source further solidifies the research's grounding in governmental perspectives, underscoring the urgency of addressing the ethical lacuna in charitable operations.

The researcher's decision to use the terms "charitable organizations" and "NGOs" interchangeably is not only academically justified but also enhances the accessibility of the study. This linguistic flexibility accommodates both academic and non-academic readers, fostering a broader understanding of the research's implications. Moreover, the acknowledgment of the absence of an explicit ethical code of conduct for NGOs in Zambia accentuates the critical gap that the dissertation seeks to fill.

The comprehensive literature review presented in the dissertation is a testament to the author's meticulous scholarship. By citing authoritative works such as Banks and Hulme (2012), Hasnan et al. (2012), and Mweene (2006), the researcher establishes a robust theoretical foundation. The synthesis of diverse sources not only enriches the dissertation's theoretical framework but also positions it within the broader scholarly conversation on philanthropy, ethics, and governance.

A noteworthy aspect of the dissertation is its commitment to ethical scrutiny within the researched context. The delineation of an NGO as a "private voluntary grouping" dedicated to various altruistic activities aligns with the global understanding of non-profit organizations. This alignment not only reflects the researcher's

attention to detail but also ensures a universally applicable ethical framework, transcending the boundaries of Mongu district.

The integration of Burns and Grove's (2009) observation regarding the importance of understanding phenomena in their context is a methodological masterstroke. By emphasizing the relevance of Mongu as a microcosm, the dissertation not only adds depth to its findings but also provides a template for understanding similar ethical concerns in other regions.

As the dissertation transitions to the methodology section, the rigor and meticulousness of the research design become evident. The use of qualitative research methods, including interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis, attests to the researcher's commitment to capturing the multifaceted nature of ethical considerations in philanthropy. The acknowledgment of the limitations, such as the specificity of the findings to the chosen context, reflects intellectual honesty and a nuanced understanding of research constraints.

The ethical implications of the study are thoroughly examined, with a focus on honoring or dishonoring the ethical obligations of charitable organizations in the implementation of their philanthropic strategies. This evaluative approach is both insightful and necessary, as it provides actionable insights for organizations, policymakers, and researchers interested in the ethical dimensions of charitable operations.

The dissertation unfolds like a captivating narrative, leading the reader through the intricate tapestry of ethical dilemmas faced by charitable organizations. The analysis of findings is meticulous, with a keen eye for nuances and a commitment to presenting a balanced perspective. The inclusion of direct quotations from participants adds a human touch to the research, allowing the voices of those directly involved in charitable activities to resonate throughout the dissertation.

In conclusion, "An Evaluation of Ethical Aspects of Philanthropic Strategies Employed by Charitable Organizations Operating in Mongu District of Western Zambia" is a tour de force in the realm of philanthropic ethics research. It not only addresses a critical gap in the literature but does so with a level of academic rigor and ethical sensitivity that is truly commendable. The dissertation stands as a testament to the researcher's commitment to advancing knowledge, fostering ethical practices, and ultimately contributing to the betterment of societies grappling with the complex dynamics of charitable endeavors. As a valuable addition to the academic canon, this dissertation invites scholars, practitioners, and policymakers alike to engage in a thoughtful dialogue on the ethical imperatives that should guide philanthropic strategies in developing regions.

Therefore, I recommend the dissertation for defense.



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