

## **ABSTRACT**

There has been an increased number of orphan and vulnerable children due to multiple issues including HIV/AIDS, extreme poverty and displacement due to natural disasters. The North Western Diocese of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania among other institutions in the country has a program to combat the alarming increase of the orphan and vulnerable children. HUYAWA Program was established in 1989 to support orphans and most vulnerable children widows and widowers. Despite of the efforts being made to help the people in need, there is a gap between the community involvement and the program. Most of the clients depend entirely on the services provided by the HUYAWA, while others do not cope with the situation. Some of them show symptoms of traumatic stress which results to several problems like withdrawal from schooling, early pregnancy, being abused, abandoned and neglected; give-up the life, feel lonely, missing basic needs and most difficult situation is when a child become head of the family.

In regard to the above mentioned situations, the researcher of this thesis through readings of published and unpublished materials, oral conversation, interviews with a pre-prepared questionnaire focused on the understanding, feelings and needs of the children and youths who lost their parents with the insight of Biblical foundation on mourning and grieving, the perspective of Christian morals on death and mourning in North Western Diocese, the situation was analyzed.

The importance of improving on psychosocial support for children and youths in grieving and mourning time was suggested to be one of the program packages. The results from this survey lead the research to recommend that psychosocial support should go side by side with other services provided to the most vulnerable children. On the other hand other stakeholders should be involved in the process by suggesting and planning for the strategies of implementation of psychosocial support aspect of the HUYAWA program.

In order to implement psychosocial support HUYAWA program should strengthen community mobilization while encouraging individual family participation in care and support to the orphans. At the same time government and non-governmental organization should come-up with community based projects for income generation to strengthen the orphans economically.

However, HUYAWA program should design a capacity building program to the Field Assistants, Field Coordinators as well as other staff members to enable them face to this challenge HUYAWA staff ( experts and experienced) need to realize this new challenge and the problems happening at the community. Community involvement in every aspect of enhancing and implementing psychosocial support is the key to helping process to the orphaned children, widows and widowers. Together with the community they may come-up with the permanent solution and workable plan to implement psychosocial activities.