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THE EXPERIENCES OF TEENAGE MOTHERS LIVING IN KATLEHONG, MOFOKENG SECTION: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY.

A report on a study project presented to

The Department of Social Work

School of Human and Community Development

Faculty of Humanities

University of the Witwatersrand

In partial fulfilment of the requirements

for the degree Bachelor of Social Work

by

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DECLARATION

A research project submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement of the degree Bachelor of Social Work in the Faculty of Humanities,

At the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

December, 2016

I declare that the project is my own, unaided work. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination at this or any other university. All sources have been correctly referenced using the APA format of referencing.

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Khutso Malwa **Date**

Degree Bachelor of Social Work

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ABSTRACT

Most people consider teenage pregnancy as a disaster (Mpanza&Nzima, 2010). However this research study aims to question the above assumption through exploring the experiences of teenage mothers that live in Katlehong, in an area called Mofokeng Section. This study was able to retrospectively view teenage pregnancy from the perspective of those who were teenage mothers, and to explore their future aspirations. The research adopted a qualitative approach and an exploratory research design. Nine participants were selected by using purposive sampling. The individual semi- structured interviews were tape- recorded with the participant's permission for the collection of data and to analyse the data. The tape recorded interviews were transcribed and emerging themes from the written material were identified. Thematic analysis was used to analyse the data. The study will contribute to the already existing research and knowledge on teenage pregnancy in the discipline but the difference is that the contexts will differ. Six out of the nine teenage mothers expressed having moments of regrets and having financial challenges after the child was born. All nine of the teenage mothers have expressed that they did not get any form of support from the community that they were part of instead they felt judged and unwanted. The majority of the teenage mothers have also expressed that family and friends have played a significant role pre and post pregnancy. It was also found that the mothers of the teenage mothers are the ones that helped them cope as teenage mothers therefore illustrating the importance of the teenage mothers' mothers during and after their pregnancy. The themes that emerged from the study include teenage mothers' experiences relating to the pregnancy; social support networks of teenage mothers; and future aspirations of teenage mothers. This study overall showed the strength and resilience of these teenage mothers as they continue to achieve their goals and provide for their children.

Keywords: teenage mothers, experiences, teenage pregnancy

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

News24 Archives (2006) reported that a high school in Katlehong had the third highest pregnancy figures in 2006.The General Household Survey 2014 (Statistics South Africa, 2016, p.30) also reported an increase in the percentage of teenage pregnancy for the age group 14 – 19 years. The teenage pregnancy rate has increased from 0,8% for females aged 14 years, to 11,9% for females aged 19 years .This is therefore a major increase however the General Household Survey did not identify the reasons for the increase. Masondo(2015) reported that based on the above findings of the General Household Survey, the SA Council for Educators (SACE), the department of basic education and Gauteng education MEC Panyaza Lesufi have labelled this high rate of teenage pregnancy as alarming, a crisis and called for intensive reviewed sex education programmes. In this newspaper article the reasons for this trend was sexual activity and perhaps also sexual exploitation (older males with younger females) (Masondo, 2015).

The student, in the past few years has observed that there seems to be an increase in teenage pregnancies of females between the ages of 14 and 19 years in the Township of Katlehong, in Mofokeng and as a result the student is interested in the experiences of these teenage mothers and what their future aspirations are.

A study done in South Asia argues that the negative consequences of teenage pregnancy include lower access to higher education, high divorce rates, premature death of women, population growth, weak and unhealthy children, as well as single motherhood (Acharya, Bhattarai, van Teijlingen, & Chapman, 2010), and a dependence on welfare and on relatives (Lemos, 2009). Hence, teenage pregnancy is often portrayed as a problem that has a negative long- term outcome in terms of readiness to mother the children and the children being perceived as challenging burdens (Anwar & Stanistreet, 2014).

This investigation aims to question this assumption by adopting the strengths perspectives in exploring the experiences of teenage mothers who are from the township of Katlehong in an area called Mofokeng Section. This investigation aims to contribute to the discipline of social work by adding on to the already existing knowledge on teenage pregnancy. The study will also highlight possible strategies that will help or support teenage mothers.

1.1. **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

What are the experiences of teenage mothers?

The research will look to answer the following questions:

- What are the challenges faced by teenage mothers?
- What are the social support networks of teenage mothers?
- What are the future aspirations of teenage mothers in relation to education?
- What are the future aspirations of teenage mothers in relation to employment?

1.2. **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

The aim of the study is to explore the experiences of teenage mothers who had their first child when they were between the ages of 14 and 19.

The objectives of the study are:

- To describe the challenges faced by teenage mothers,
- To establish the social support networks of teenage mothers,
- To explore the teenage mothers' future aspirations in relation to education,
- To explore the teenage mothers' future aspirations in relation to employment.

The research report will review literature on teenage pregnancy in Chapter 2 where teenage pregnancy will be defined and discussed in detail. Then Chapter 3 focuses on the research methods also making reference to the research design, population and sampling, data collection, data analysis as well as the ethical considerations. The findings of the research are then highlighted in Chapter 4 and discussed in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. **INTRODUCTION**

The literature is divided into eight main headings: definition of teenage pregnancy, teenage pregnancy globally, cultural factors surrounding teenage pregnancy, teenage pregnancy and single- parenthood, HIV and teenage pregnancy, teenage pregnancy and education, advantages and disadvantages of teenage pregnancy, and lastly the link between teenage mothers and the strengths and resilience perspective. The first heading focuses on defining what teenage pregnancy is and the second heading focuses on teenage pregnancy in Gauteng and Katlehong. Then the fourth heading focuses on the influence and role of culture on teenage pregnancy. The fifth heading focuses on single- parenthood as a negative result of teenage pregnancy and the sixth heading focuses on the effects of teenage pregnancy on a school girl and her schooling and the ways in which the government has ensured that a teenage mother is not discriminated against in terms of continuing with her education. The seventh heading focuses on the positive and more especially the negative effects of teenage pregnancy and the different views expressed by researchers on the matter. Then lastly, the strengths and resilience perspective is discussed in relation to the teenage mothers.

2.2. **DEFINITION OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY**

A teenage mother refers to a woman that had her first child before the age of 20 years (Luong, 2008). Teenage pregnancy has been viewed to be a major problem because it impacts on the mother's schooling, employment and earnings, on the financial position of her family's household, and the impact of the child being born into greater poverty (Jewkes & Woods, 1998 as cited in Jewkes, Vundule, Maforah, & Jordaaan, 2001). The assumption is that when a teenager has a baby it will destroy her chances of getting education and it may danger her health argues Macleod (as cites in Mpanza, & Nzima, 2010). Jewkes et al. (2001) argues that sometimes the concern about teenage pregnancy is influenced by the notion that, in a predominantly Christian country, teenage sexual activity is essentially immoral. Koffman (2012) argues that by engaging in sexual activity and taking on the responsibilities of parenthood, teenage mothers disturb already existing notions of children purity and sexual purity. This shows that there are structures in the society that operate

beyond our control and these structures organise and order our lives (Hagemeier, Spicer, Nadasen, Draper, Thaver, & Batley, 2006).

2.3. **TEENAGE PREGNANCY GLOBALLY**

Teenage pregnancies are emerging as a social problem as they are increasing in number each year (Mpanza, & Nzima, 2010). It has been estimated that in the world 1 million girls under the age of 15 years and 16 million girls between 15 and 19 years gave birth and that this is common in low and middle income countries (WHO, n.d.).

2.3.1. ***TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA***

The sexual behaviour and reproductive health of teenagers has become a public concern globally and especially in the United States of America (Danawi, Bryant, & Hasbini, 2016). Thus the United States of America had the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in the world (WHO, n.d.; Cavazos, Krauss, Spitznagel, Schootman, Cotter, & Bierut, 2013). Hence, Secura, Madden, McNicholas, Mullersman, Buckel, Zhao, and Peipert (2014) argue that each year in the USA more than 600000 teenagers becomes pregnant and 3 in 10 teenagers will become pregnant before they reach 20 years of age. Secura, et al. (2014) further argues that teenage pregnancy rates are higher among black and Hispanic teenagers with 4 in 10 teenagers becoming pregnant by the age of 20.

2.3.2. ***TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN KENYA***

Premarital sex is argued to be common in Kenya by Guttmacher (2012) thus 40% of unmarried 15 to 24 years old women have had sex and more than 1 in 7 teenagers are sexually active. Hence, teenage pregnancy is a concern in Kenya because it is also the second most common reason for teenage girls dropping out of school states Guttmacher (2012). Guttmacher (2012) estimates that 13000 teenage girls leave school every year due to teenage pregnancy. The downside however of teenage pregnancy research is that it tends to focus more on the teenage mothers and less has been reported globally on the effects of teenage pregnancy on teenage fathers or on older men that have a child or children by teenage mothers.

2.3.3. *TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN SOUTH AFRICA, GAUTENG AND KATLEHONG*

In 2013, 99000 schoolgirls fell pregnant in South Africa and every year the number of school- girls that fall pregnant increases because in 2012, it was 81000 learners and in 2011 it was 6800 0 schoolgirls (New24, 2015). The Gauteng province was also reported to have the highest number of school pregnancies in 2015 (Timeslive, 2015).

Katlehong is a township located 35km east of Johannesburg and the women in the area face challenges such as rape, crime, unemployment, substance abuse as well as teenage pregnancy (Soul City Institute, 2014). In Katlehong there are organisations such as POWA and Love Life that offer support to the women in the area (Soul City Institute, 2014). There are also primary health care centres in Katlehong that offer antenatal classes for pregnant women, pap- smear and contraceptives (Soul City Institute, 2014). The police services in the area fail to answer to calls of help from the community on time and the attitude of thehealth- care staff at the clinic has been reported as a problem by the community members in Katlehong (Soul City Institute, 2014). The rate of pregnancy has been reported to be high

2.4. **CULTURAL FACTORS SURROUNDING TEENAGE PREGNANCY**

Culture is argued to be one of the risk factors of teenage pregnancy because in cultures that early marriages are permitted teenage pregnancy is common and accepted (Danawi, et al., 2016) but Lemos (2009) argues that teenage pregnancy within marriage and with extended family support does not result in the same long- term consequences as teenage pregnancy followed by single parenthood, isolation and poverty. Among Bangladeshis and Pakistanis teenage pregnancy is a cultural norm as a result of an earlier marriage (Lemos, 2009; Acharya et al., 2010) because cultural awareness is based on learned behaviour that is passed on from one generation to the next and it affects person's views on the world (Danawi, et al., 2016).

Lemos (2009) argues that when young women and men have a strong connection with their parent's traditional culture and their community (Danawi, et al., 2016) they are less likely to engage in any sexual activities. Therefore some black cultures where initiation school and virginal inspection was practiced, teenage pregnancy was and is still seen as a taboo in

most of the rural communities. Hence, Macleod (1999, as cited in Nkwanyana, 2011) argues that urbanization and industrialization has led to the decline of traditional practices and institutions such as the initiation school and virginal inspection.

However culture is also seen as a risk factor of teenage pregnancy because it prevents open dialogue about sex at home or in school as a result few teenagers receive comprehensive sex education and often teachers do not have sufficient training or information to provide on sex argues Guttmacher (2012). Therefore pregnancy prevention efforts can be improved by acknowledging the structural and cultural factors that shape teenage pregnancy attitudes (Cavazos, et al., 2013).

In some cultures teenage pregnancy is a blessing because it proof of the young woman's fertility (Lemos, 2009) and it will secure the teenage mothers' relationship with their boyfriends (Danawi, et al., 2016). Therefore, ideally when the baby is born he or she is welcomed in the family, and it is looked after by an older woman, allowing the mother to go back to school (Jewkes et al., 2001). To support this notion Kaufman, de Wet and Stadler (2001) argue that although unmarried daughters may be severely reprimanded for becoming pregnant, once a baby is born, he or she is generally welcomed in the household, the teenage mother usually returns to school, and because she has proven her fertility, she may in fact have increased chances for marriage. Therefore although most people consider teenage pregnancy as a disaster, in many societies it has become an acceptable thing (Mpanza, & Nzima, 2010).

2.5. **TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND SINGLE- PARENTHOOD**

Single- parenthood refers to a parent who cares for one or more children without the physical, psychological and sometimes financial assistance of the other parent (Sibanda & Mudhovozi, 2012). It has been found in a lot of conducted studies that the increase of teenage pregnancy is the main cause of single- parenthood, especially motherhood (Sibanda & Mudhovozi, 2012; Clear, Willaims, & Cosby, 2011). Sibanda and Mudhovozi (2012) argue that young single parents find it very difficult to worry about the welfare of their children and also worry about continuing their education therefore teenage single mothers are more likely to depend on state benefits. Hence, teenage pregnancy is a result of two incomplete homes where there is an absence of the mother or the father (Nkwanyana, 2011). For teenage mothers to be able to adopt their new roles they will need the availability of social support therefore the most consistent sources of support for a

teenage mother is her family of origin, especially her own mother (Caldwell, Antonucci, & Jackson, 1998; Kal, Ziol- Guest, & Coley, 2005). Kal, et al. (2005) further claims that the presence of the teenage mother's mother as the potential co- parent decreases the teenage mother's desire or need for support from the baby's father.

2.6. **HIV AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY**

HIV and teenage pregnancy should not be separated because they both result from unprotected sex argues Panday, Makiwane, Ranchod and Letsoalo (2009). Teenage pregnancy illustrates that young people are having unprotected sex which is a concern because South Africa is regarded as having the highest prevalence of HIV infection in the world (Human Sciences Research Council, 2010, as cited in Sibanda & Mudhovozi, 2012). Hence HIV is now regarded as the primary reproductive health concern for adolescents (Panday, et al., 2009). According to Hartell (2005), approximately 7 million South Africans are HIV positive however adolescents have been found to be at high risk (Hartell, 2005;) for many negative health consequences such HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies (Kotchick, Shaffer, & Forehand, 2001). According to Bhana and Mcambi (2013) the high rate of teenage pregnancy challenges the HIV prevention strategies that are based on abstinence and condom use. The national data has indicated that 24. 7 % of sexually active students have used alcohol and drugs at the time of their sexual experience and this is a great concern because only about 10 to 20 % of sexually active students always use condoms (Kotchick, et al., 2001). These figures are alarming as they reveal that young people are at risk of contracting HIV and other sexually related diseases because of their sexual risky behaviour. The South African government has tried to put in place programmes in schools and communities that educate young people about HIV and AIDS and other sexual related diseases however looking at the high rates of teenage pregnancy and HIV, it is clear that the government's efforts are going down the drain. Therefore globally and in South Africa the factors that contribute to sexual risk behaviour need to be identified and understood (Kotchick, et al., 2001). Cavazos, et al. (2013) suggests that teenagers with comprehensive sexual health knowledge about pregnancy are more likely to engage in protected sexual activity. However Mcambi and Bhana (2013) argue that the most effective programs to prevent teenage pregnancy and risky sexual behaviour are those that include the parents in them. The reason for this claim is because parental communication with their children influences the onset of sexual

behaviour and pregnancy, making the roles played by the parents important in the prevention of teenage pregnancies (Mcambi, & Bhana, 2013).

2.7. **TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND EDUCATION**

Education is a social determinant or a protective factor for unintended pregnancies because completion of higher education improves the health of teenagers and their literacy argues Danawi, et al. (2016). Evidence from studies suggests that school's support is important because it increases the educational aspirations of young women, addresses gendered poverty, and empowers women in the society (Mcambi, & Bhana, 2013).

As a result school- girls becoming mothers is seen as a problem because having a child is argued to hinder progress at school which may result to dropping out (Mcambi, & Bhana, 2013) and to teenage mothers having no or low educational qualifications (Saim, Dufaker, & Ghazinour, 2014). However, in South Africa in contrast to other settings, a teenage mother may return to school once they have given birth (Kaufman et al., 2001). But that tends to not be the case in South Africa because in a study done by Masuku (1998), educators expressed that school was not for mothers or pregnant girls, it was for learners. This shows the social exclusion the teenage mothers might experience from their educators if they considered going back to school. Race also plays a role in the negative beliefs that are associated with teenage pregnancy because it has been found that in the black communities it is a stigma for a girl to fall pregnant at a young age outside marriage (Mpanzi & Nzima, 2010). Therefore it is important that the South African Schools Act No. 94 of 1996 considers how teenage mothers can be successfully integrated back into the school setting after pregnancy and how they be given support in terms of providing child-care facilities on the school's premises. Mpanza and Nzima (2010) state that research has shown that child- care facilities within the school are a need in order to keep teenage mothers in the school but there is strong opposition from the communities and educators.

2.8. **ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY**

Hoffman (1998) emphasizes that there is no such thing as the effects of teenage pregnancy because teenage mothers are individuals that vary in their circumstances, behaviour and wellbeing. Thus some teenage mothers end up doing fairly well. Some researchers believe that there can be no advantages to teenage pregnancies nowadays (Mpanza & Nzima, 2010). Hoffman and Hoffman (as cited in Mpanza & Nzima, 2010) however argue that the

advantages of teenage pregnancy is that teenagers gain adult status and social identity, they become less selfish, they learn to share and lastly, they are able to contribute to the family income through the child's grant provided by the state. These advantages are questionable especially the argument that teenage mothers are able to contribute to the family income, considering the budget that is allocated to the teenage mothers for child support grant, which is R350 for 2016. East (1999) insists that researchers should also be alert to the positive effects of teenage pregnancy on the teenage mother's family because the baby creates close family bonds as all the family members help raise the child.

Ferguson and Woodward (2000) argue that teenage mothers are likely to experience personal and social disadvantages. They include early school leaving (Ferguson & Woodward, 2000; Mpanza & Nzima, 2010), educational underachievement (Ferguson & Woodward, 2000; Secura, et al., 2014; Clear et al., 2012), socio- economic disadvantage (Ferguson & Woodward, 2000; Secura, et al., 2014, Clear, et al., 2012; Hoffman, 1998), welfare dependency (Marx, & Hopper, 2005), single parenthood (Clear, et al., 2012; Marx, & Hopper, 2005) as well as marital instability (Ferguson and Woodward, 2000; East, Reyes, & Honn, 2007). On a personal level a teenage mother has less opportunity to develop an independent sense of self (Hurlbut, MacDonald, Jambunathan, & Butler, 1997).

Teenage pregnancy may have a negative impact on the foetus or infant whereby many studies report that there is an increased risk of foetal death (Cockett, & Knetzer, 1998), and infants born to teenage mothers are at risk of having low birth weight or being born premature, poor cognitive development and lower educational attainment (Clear, et al., 2012). According to Malborn (2009) teenage pregnancy may formally or informally deny the teenage mother resources and support normally provided to adult mothers because unmarried teenage mothers violate an age norm against teenage pregnancy and a timing norm against pregnancy before marriage therefore teenage pregnancy "ruins" a teenager's life chances.

Luong (2008, p.5) acknowledges that socio- economic disadvantage in teenage pregnancy is common but she argues that the link between teenage childbearing, and a poor socio-economic outcome may not be causal because the probability of being a teenage mother and the probability of being disadvantaged later on may be due to having a disadvantaged background from the start. To support this claim Hoffman (1998) argues that measuring the socioeconomic effects of teenage pregnancy may seem to be a simple task because

everyone knows that teenage mothers have low family incomes, are more likely to depend on welfare and are less likely to be married but these facts by themselves do not determine that teenage pregnancy is the single cause for these problems. Another disadvantage that tends to be experienced by the teenage mothers is that they face confusing advice from many people about child- rearing and this as a result undermines the confidence in the girl for the rest of her life (Mpanza & Nzima, 2010).

Maintenance or support of the child can also be a disadvantage as it is subject to paternal recognition and commitment and some boys are unwilling to admit paternity because it jeopardizes their educational and employment opportunities (Kaufman et al., 2010). Some qualitative studies, which explore the perspectives of the young mothers themselves, challenge negative depictions of teenage motherhood and suggest that becoming a mother may be a positive experience for young woman especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds (Anwar & Stanistreet, 2014), since it has been argued that teenage pregnancy is more common among women from socially disadvantaged backgrounds (Ferguson & Woodward, 2000).

2.9. **THE LINK BETWEEN TEENAGE MOTHERS AND THE STRENGTHS AND RESILIENCE PERSPECTIVE**

The strengths perspective focuses on a person's strengths, interests and abilities and not on the person's weaknesses (Saleebey, 2002). The strengths perspective also challenges the social worker to take on a position of respect and admiration, therefore in adopting the strengths perspective, the social worker is committed to knowing the individual and what they desire for their lives (Saleebey, 2002). The strengths perspective also argues that people tend to demonstrate resilience when they are going through hardships (Saleebey, 2012) therefore teenage mothers can be believed to be resilient individuals because they have to overcome a lot of challenges. Hence, resilience theory argues that people have the capacity to recover from hard times (Saleebey, 2002). Vaillant (1993, p. 284, as cited in Saleeby, 2002, p. 30) defines resilience as, " The self – righting tendencies of the person, both the capacity to be bent without breaking and the capacity , once bent , to spring back." Payne (2005) argues that there are three factors in generating resilience namely, intelligence and being reflective; alternative psychological support; and removal from risk environments. Saleeby (2002) argues resilience research is done in order for one to learn how and why a person or people were able to overcome challenges. Hence the research

study explored the experiences of teenage mothers in order to understand how these teenage mothers overcame the challenges they were faced with during and especially after the birth of their children because they had to adopt to the new role of motherhood and the responsibilities thereof that comes with that title. Resilience does not disregard the difficult and traumatic challenges a person has encountered however it is a person's ability to grow and cope in spite of the damage done and pain felt (Saleeby, 2002). Thus resilience is a process, as it does not happen overnight however it is the continuing growth, knowledge and insight acquired through facing the demands and challenges one encounters in their life. Therefore the research illustrates that life for the teenage mothers was challenging however as time went these mothers were able to pick themselves up and carry on with their lives for themselves and their children.

2.10. **CONCLUSION**

There is extensive research on teenage pregnancy that has worked toward understanding the experiences of teenage mothers internationally and nationally. Research however on teenage pregnancy tends to be negative and based on the socially constructed ideas of how people should behave. One literature argued that teenage mothers violated the norms of age and timing of pregnancy and this was an illustration to the student that the timing for one to get married or have sexual intercourse is determined by the society but also acknowledging that teenage pregnancy puts the teenage mother and the foetus or infant in grave danger. However, for the researchers to paint all teenage mothers with the same negative brush is inaccurate because as stated above teenage mothers are individuals and they behave differently, brought up differently and they come from different social and economic backgrounds therefore for researchers to deduce that all teenage mother will have lower educational attainment and become dependent on welfare is a notion that needs further studying.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS

3.1. **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter focuses on the methodological aspect of the research project. Eight main headings are discussed under the methodology chapter and they include the research approach design, the population and sample, research instrumentation, data collection, data analysis, the trustworthiness of the research study, ethical considerations, and lastly the limitations of the study.

3.2. **RESEARCH APPROACH DESIGN**

Qualitative research aims to understand social life and the meaning that people attribute to everyday life (De Vos, Strydom, Fouche, & Delport, 2011). Thus a qualitative researcher is interested in understanding and describing rather than predicting or explaining human behaviour. This research project aimed to explore the experiences of teenage mothers through a face- to- face interview and by adopting a qualitative stance the student was able to understand and describe the teenage mothers' experiences.

Thus this exploratory research explored the experiences of teenage mothers who at present, are between the ages of 19 and 25 and had their first child between the ages 14 and 19 and live in Katlehong, in an area called Mofokeng Section. The research adopted a qualitative approach in answering the research question. This is because according to Payne and Payne (2004, p. 175), "Qualitative methods produce detailed and non- accounts of small groups, seeking to interpret the meanings people make of their lives in natural settings, on the assumption that social interactions form an integrated set of relationships best understood by inductive process." method of data collection semi- structured interview that includes an interview schedule.

The research used the exploratory design and to collect data an interview schedule was used and a semi- structured interview was conducted. De Vos, Strydom, Fouche, and Delport (2011) argue that the purpose of the exploratory design is to gain insight into a situation or phenomenon. An interview schedule is a list of the topics and issues that the researcher and interviewee must talk about to answer the research question (Hagemeier et al., 2006).

Therefore research used interviews for data collection based on Hagemeier et al.'s (2006, p. 75- 76) argument that interviews allow the researcher to explore people's lives and experiences in great detail, interviews can sort out any confusion or misunderstanding immediately and lastly interviews can be rewarding because they give researchers an insight into other people's lives. However, the disadvantage of using interviews for data collection is that the participants may be unwilling to share and the participants might give desirable or untruthful answer (De Vos, et al., 2011).

3.3. **POPULATION AND SAMPLE**

The sample consisted of nine teenage mothers that were between the ages of nineteen and twenty- five. Non- probably sampling was the sampling procedure the research followed. Non- probability sampling is useful in qualitative research where the goal is to develop an understanding of one particular setting or group of people (Monette, Sullivan, DeJong, &Hilton, 2014). Therefore purposive sampling was used, meaning that the participants met the sampling criteria in order for them to partake in the study. The research recruited teenage mothers by handing out participant sheets to a support group of teenage mothers in Katlehong who individually decided if they are keen to participate in the study or not. The selection criteria was therefore:

- Teenage mothers aged between 19 – 25 years who had their first child between the ages of 14 and 19 years
- They reside in Mofokeng, Katlehong
- They are part of an informal self - help group for teenage mothers in Mofokeng, Katlehong

The teenage mothers that are part of this self –help group meets on a weekly basis in the community at a member's house. This group started 2013 by a community member who was also a teenage mother. The student approached the group and did a formal presentation about the research study, and the advantages and disadvantages thereof. The participants were comfortable in answering questions in English, IsiZulu or Southern Sotho. Each participant's current age, age of when they became pregnant, and the grade they were in when they became pregnant are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table1: Description of each participant in the sample

Pseudonym name	Current age	Race	Marital status	Occupation/ School	Number of children	Grade when became pregnant	Age when became pregnant
"Thuli"	25	Black	Single	Unemployed	4	Grade 9	16
"Olite"	19	Black	Single	Sales agent- Kaizer Chiefs	2	Grade 8	14
"Wandi"	19	Black	Single	Unemployed	1	10	16
"Angel"	22	Black	Single	Unemployed	1	10	16
"Thabi"	21	Black	Single	Cashier- Shoprite	1	9	15
"Tshepi"	24	Black	Single	Nursing student	1	11	17
"Thandi"	23	Black	Single	3rd year student	1	12	18
"Lindi"	19	Black	Married	Learner- matric	1	9	16
"Momo"	19	Black	Single	Unemployed	1	9	16

3.4. **RESEARCH INSTRUMENTATION**

To explore the experiences of the teenage mother's a semi- structured interview was used and the interview schedule consisted of the topic and issues that the researcher had to cover. The issues that were included in the interview schedule aimed to answer the research questions. The interview schedule helped the researcher cover all the topics and in all the interviews, the researcher was able compare what the different teenage mothers had said about the same topic (Hagemeier, 2006, p. 72). Lastly the semi- structured interview schedule consisted mainly of open- ended questions.

3.5. **DATA COLLECTION**

The data was collected in a form of face- to- face individual interviews that took less than an hour and the individual interviews were tape recorded. To enhance trustworthiness of the data collection, a pilot study was done with two teenage mothers that met the requirements of the study to pre-test the research tool. The interviews were conducted on the local clinic's premises because the participants felt it was comfortable and safe.

3.6. **DATA ANALYSIS**

After collecting the data the student transcribed the interviews that were tape recorded and then used thematic analysis to identify emerging themes from all the interviews. Under each theme the student looked at what each participant said and similarities and differences were identified. Finally the researcher wrote about the themes in detail to show the findings. The student used the five steps of analysing data according to De Vos, et al. (2011). Step one involves collecting and recording data and step two is managing data. Then step three involves reading and memoing and step four consists of describing, classifying, and interpreting data. Lastly, the fifth stage involves representing and visualising the data.

3.6.1. **Credibility:** In terms of data collection, the credibility of the collected data was ensured by tape recording the interviews and by making sure that the interview schedule contained all the questions that should be answered by the participant and the interview consisted of open- ended questions to allow for further exploration of the answer. The student did not have persistent observation or prolonged engagement with the participants.

In terms the data analysis the student transcribed the tape recording of the interviews and from the written material identified what emerge from the interviews by using thematic analysis and comparing the similarities and differences.

3.6.2. **Transferability:** The findings of the study will not apply to the broader context but it will only apply to the teenage mothers that were interviewed because the sample is not representative of the whole population of Katlehong or Mofokeng. The student gave thick descriptions of the participants' experiences, culture and contexts. The student will also

have a reflexive diary in order to reflect on her feeling and to avoid being bias because she lives in Katlehong and she fell pregnant when she nineteen.

3.6.3. **Confirmability:** The data can be confirmed through the tape recordings and supervisor checking.

3.6.4. **Dependability:** The student used thematic analysis to analysis the data and she is also used the five steps of analysing qualitative research in De Vos, et al. (2011). The student an audit trail that will be examined by the student's supervisor.

3.7. **ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

3.7.1. ***INFORMED CONSENT AND HARM TO SUBJECTS***

Babbie and Mouton (2001) say that before the research begins the researcher must inform the participants of anything that may influence their decision to participate and of their obligations and responsibilities. The participant sheet provides information about the research study and the procedures that will be followed during the data collection such as the tape recording of the interview with the participant. The participant sheet also allows the participant to withdraw from the study at any time and participation is voluntary.

3.7.2. ***VIOLATION OF PRIVACY, ANONYMITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY***

The research study respects the right of the participant to privacy because it is stated in the participant sheet that the participant may refuse to answer any question if they are uncomfortable in answering it. The participant's anonymity was ensured because the participants were provided with pseudonyms and their personal identifying details were not mentioned in the findings or the research report. To ensure confidentiality the tape records of the interviews are going to be stored in a safe place and only the researcher and her supervisor will have access to the tapes.

3.7.3. ***RELEASE OR PUBLICATION OF THE FINDINGS***

The participant sheet states that should the participants wish to receive a summary of the findings of the study an abstract will be provided to them on request.

3.7.4. ***DEBRIEFING OF RESPONDENTS***

It is stated in the participant sheet that the researcher has arranged with Khanya Family Centre for the participants to receive free counselling services if they feel emotionally distressed after the interviews in order for them to work through their experiences.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1. **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter illustrates the findings that were gathered from nine participants. The transcripts were analysed through thematic analysis and the quotes in italics illustrates the findings in study. Three themes have emerged in the process of data analysis. These themes are a) Teenage mothers' experiences relating to the pregnancy; b) Social support networks of teenage mothers; c) Future aspirations of teenage mothers. Therefore the main themes and subthemes are summarised in Table 2 below. Pseudonyms as mentioned in the previous chapter were given to each participant and are illustrated in bold.

Table2

Main themes and Subthemes the emerged analysing the data

Main themes	**Subthemes**
Teenage mothers' experiences relating to the pregnancy:	Teenage mothers' reactions around pregnancy
	Challenges faced by teenage mothers
	Moments of regret for teenage mothers
Social support networks of teenage mothers:	Support from family
	Support from friends
	Support from the community
	Coping mechanisms of teenage mothers
Future aspirations of teenage mothers:	Future aspirations in relation to education
	Future aspirations in relation to employment

4.2 **TEENAGE MOTHERS' EXPERIENCES RELATING TO THE PREGNANCY**

4.2.1. ***TEENAGE MOTHERS' REACTIONS AROUND PREGNANCY***

It is important to find out about the teenage mothers' reactions around their pregnancy as it illustrates the teenage mothers' thoughts and feelings when they found out they were going to be mothers. Understanding these reactions, is establishing if the pregnancy was intended or unintended.

Out of the nine participants seven, admitted to having been scared, embarrassed, suicidal, and disappointed when they discovered that they were going to be mothers:

"Thuli": *"I was very disappointed and what is worse is that I did not know that I was pregnant, my grandmother saw me"*

"Olite": *"I was a little bit scared. Even tried to take my life"*

"Wandi": *"I was scared. I thought my parents are going to kill me"*

"Thabi": *"yooooo...I was very scared, I did not understand I was even considering an getting an abortion"*

"Thandi": *"I was embarrassed because I still young and I had never been a mother before"*

The other one participant expressed that she did not care at that time and the other expressed feeling happy when she discovered that he was going to be a mother.

"Angel": *"I did not care"*

"Lindi": *"I was happy about it because my boyfriend was there for me"*

4.2.2. *CHALLENGES FACED BY TEENAGE MOTHERS*

Some of the teenage mothers expressed that they had financial challenges after the child was born as a result they had to financially depend upon their parents, boyfriends, boyfriend's families and on grant:

"Thuli": *"Yes there were however the father of my children would try to his level best to ensure that the children's basic needs are met. But now, at present because he is no longer present in our lives things are difficult and now my grandmother has to do everything for my children and more especially for my fourth child"*

***"Olite"**: "Yes, a lot because ever since my child was born her father has never financially supported her, 'till this day. It was very difficult because I had to go to school and my child had to go to cretch. So it was challenging"*

"Wandi": *"Yes. My parents helped me"*

"Thabi": *"Yes because the child's father did not want to buy the necessary needs of the child and my parents did not support me at first however as time went they supported me and the child"*

"Tshepi": *"Yes there were because my mother is a single- parent who used grant money to provide for our needs"*

"Thandi": *"Yes I did have but the father of my child and his family helped me financially and my family also helped me"*

One of the teenage mothers expressed that she does not know if there were any financial challenges because she had left her child in her mother's care in order for her to go out with her friends:

"Angel": *"I do not know. I was always at the tavern and I would leave my child with my mother"*

The one teenage mother expressed that her boyfriend was working therefore she did not experience any financial challenges and the other teenage mother stated that her mother financially supported her and her child therefore she did not experience any financial challenges:

“Lindi”: *“No there were none because my boyfriend works”*

“Momo”: *“No because my mother supported me”*

4.2.3. ***MOMENTS OF REGRET FOR TEENAGE MOTHERS***

Out of the nine teenage mothers, six expressed having moments of regrets about being young mothers in the following quotes:

“Thuli”: *“yes they are moment because as we speak my things are stuck. I cannot go outside or even think of doing anything like looking for a job because my children are not attending school therefore I need to look after them. I am just always stuck with these kids”*

“Olite”: *“I nearly killed myself because when i thought of the thing I used to do before I got pregnant.... I felt as if my life had stopped. As if there was no place for me to run to”*

“Wandi”: *“Yes. People made me feel bad because they were gossiping about me”*

“Thabi”: *“Yes I did because I thought to myself that my friends are at school and I am busy at home looking after my child”*

“Tshepi”: *“I had a lot of those moments because being a young mother is not easy”*

“Thandi”: *“Yes there were because I could not spend time with my friends anymore because I had to take care of my child”*

“Momo”: *“Yes there was, because I really wanted to study”*

The other two teenage mothers expressed that they had no moments of regrets. The one teenage mother had no regrets because her boyfriend was financially well- off, therefore their child did not lack in anything. However the other teenage mother did not have regrets because her mother took care of her child while she went out drinking with her friends:

“Angel”: *“No I had no regrets because my mother took care of my child”*

4.3. **SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORKS OF TEENAGE MOTHERS**

4.3.1. ***SUPPORT FROM FAMILY***

Support from family for teenage mothers is important as it helps them cope with being young mothers and to cope with the demands of being a mother. It is normal for the family to be disappointed and angry at the teenage mothers for being pregnant outside of marriage and at a young age however as time goes and as the child grows, some families end up accepting the situation and supporting the teenage mother. However for some families it is hard to accept that their child has a child to an extent that they want nothing to do with the teenage mother and their child. Teenage mothers expressed getting support from their mothers, boyfriends, aunts, boyfriend's family, and their families:

"Thuli": *"I did get support however as time goes my family started judging me, bad-mouthing me and every time any of them were angry they would take it out on me by telling me how I am so busy making children"*

"Olite": *"They did support me but sometimes there were critics but what can I say they did try. But my mother was the one I can say gave me support. My brothers and sister did not want to be involved"*

"Wandi": *"My parents helped me"*

"Thabi": *"Yes because the child's father did not want to buy the necessary needs of the child and my parents did not support me at first however as time went they supported me and the child"*

"Tshepi": *"My family was not pleased with the idea of me being pregnant so things were not easy. I would say my mother was the only person I can say supported me"*

"Thandi": *"the father of my child and his family helped me financially and my family also helped me"*

"Lindi": *"From my mother and aunty I received support"*

"Momo": *"Yes actually my whole family supported me"*

4.3.2. ***SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS***

For teenage mothers to have support from their friends is also important because it helps the teenage mothers to not feel out of place and it also help them have people they can cry to or call on for help.

"Thuli": *"Yes, I did receive support however as you know friends are not the same so even if they might support you behind your back they might be gossiping about you."*

"Olite": *"We were still in school and they did not exclude me from things just because I was a mother. They really supported me"*

"Thabi": *"My friends were amazing because they would even give me monetary gifts for the child and me"*

"Tshepi": *"My friends really supported me and they would also give me on tough days money for me to buy nappies for my child"*

"Thandi": *"They did support me and they were there for me whenever I needed them"*

"Momo": *"they did not support me"*

However some friends tend to separate themselves from a teenage mother because of the negative way in which teenage pregnancy is portrayed in the society:

"Wandi": *"They did not support me the turned against me as they felt I was going to influence them badly"*

Some friends are not good to have around teenage mothers because they promote risky behaviour

"Angel": *"My friends and I drink together"*

4.3.3. ***SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY***

All nine of the participants expressed that they did not get any support from the community. They felt as if the community member judged them and badmouthed them. this is a result of the way in which teenage pregnancy has been portrayed globally whereby it is portrayed as a terrible sin that teenage mothers have committed against God, and the society.

"Thuli": "From the community I did not receive any form of support."

“Olite”: “in the community I did not get community but it did not affect me”

“Wandi”: “The community members wanted nothing to do with me and they would argue that I was not brought up well”

“Angel”: *“I do not care about the community and what they say”*

“Thabi”: *“No I did not receive any support. The community members would gossip about me”*

“Tshepi”: *“people are always talking so I was judgded and badmouthed”*

“Thandi”: *“the community members would gossip about me”*

“Lindi”: *“community was just okay”*

“Momo”: *“No they also did not”*

4.3.4. ***COPING MECHANISMS OF TEENAGE MOTHERS***

The teenage mothers have expressed the their mothers helped them cope as teenage mothers. The teenage mothers’ mothers play a significant role in the rearing of the children and in the emotional and financial support of the children. Thus teenage mothers’ mothers can be viewed as co-parent as they too help in bringing up the children:

“Olite”: *“My mother helped me. She kept me strong”*

“Wandi”: *“and parents helped me cope”*

“Tshepi”: *“It’s my mother because she also had her first child at an early age thus she understood what I was going through”*

“Thandi”: *“It was my mother”*

“Lindi”: *“my mother”*

“Momo”: *“My mother helped me cope”*

One teenage mother expressed that she was not coping:

"Thuli": *"N-O-T-H-I-N-G and no one is helping me cope Khutso. I am not coping at all. I just feel stuck and as if I am doing one thing everyday and that is waking up, eating, looking after my and sleeping"*

4.4. **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS OF TEENAGE MOTHERS**

4.4.1. ***FUTURE ASPIRATIONS IN RELATION TO EDUCATION***

Teenage mothers are argued to have lower educational attainment and they are at risk of having low educational qualifications. Some researchers may view teenage pregnancy as the end for the teenage mother however having a child at a young age should not mean the end of the teenager's road instead the teenage mother should be more encouraged to improve her life for the good of her child or children. Some of the teenage mothers have expressed wanting to go back to school and completing their studies so that they can have better jobs that pay good in order for the needs of their children to be met:

"Thuli": *"in terms of schooling would rather work first so that I can afford to pay my fees"*

"Olite": *"in terms of education I am planning to go back to school, seeing that I passed my matric very well so I am going to go back to school to study law or teaching. But I study teaching I definitely want to work at a private school [lauging]. So that I can give to my children the kind of education that I want"*

"Thabi": *"in terms of education I want to go back to school and study to become a doctor"*

"Tshepi": *"I am currently in college studying nursing therefore in a few years time I will be a qualified nurse"*

"Thandi": *"I am doing my last year in university"*

"Lindi": *"I am currently doing my matric and I want to finish and work"*

"Momo": *"I want to go back to school and carry on from where I left off which was grade nine"*

4.4.2. ***FUTURE ASPIRATIONS IN RELATION TO EMPLOYMENT***

Having a job that pays well is a priority to the teenage mother because some are single parent and they have to support their children alone. Currently the lot of the interviewed teenage mothers would like to first complete school and then get a job however some of the teenage mother would like to work right away:

"Thuli": *"Right now I would like to get a job and then in terms of schooling would rather work first so that I can afford to pay my fees. However I will think about it once I see that my children are well- off"*

"Wandi": *"I would like to have a job"*

"Angel": *"I want to own a tavern"*

4.5 **CONCLUSION**

The above evidence shows that most of the teenage births were unintended because the teenage mothers were scared, embarrassed, suicidal, disappointed and care-free when they discovered that they were going to be mothers. It is also evident in the research that the teenage mother had financial challenges after the child was born. Most of the teenage mothers expressed moments of regret about being mothers because they could not partake in the things they used to partake in and they had to drop out of school due to teenage pregnancy. For most of the teenage mothers support from their families was important in ensuring that the needs of the child are met. The support from the teenage mother's mother was found to also be significant in that it helped the teenage mothers cope and met the demands of being a mother. Not much is said about the father's of the babies born to the teenage mother except that they are not supportive however the teenage mothers through support from their families and the social grant are able to make ends meet and provide for their children. It is evident that friends also play an important role in the teenage mothers' lives and it can either be positive or negative. Sometime teenage mothers don not have any one to turn to for support but their friends. The role that the community play in the teenage mother's life is often taken for granted and it shows in the research that the community does not realise the importance of the role it needs to play in the teenage mother's life. It was found that most of the teenage mothers would like to complete their studies before they get a job and at time it is a challenge to consider school because the child has to eat and be clothed therefore looking for a job would be a wiser option.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION

5.1. **INTRODUCTION**

The findings of the research will be discussed in relation to existing literature. The same themes from chapter four are discussed in relation to the research questions outlined in Chapter two. The research questions are centred on the experiences of teenage mothers living in Katlehong, Mofokeng Section. This includes the challenges faced by the teenage mothers, the social support networks of teenage mothers, and the future aspirations of teenage mothers in relations to education and employment. Then limitations and recommendations for future research are discussed.

5.2. **TEENAGE MOTHERS' EXPERIENCES RELATING TO THE PREGNANCY**

According to Clear, et al. (2012) a teenage mother's partner's support, commitment to the relationship, and his opinion on the desirability of the pregnancy influence the teenage mother's decision in considering whether a pregnancy was intended or unintended.

Therefore the seven teenage mothers that were scared, disappointed and embarrassed when they found out they are going to be mothers were partly if not entirely influenced to feel that way by the relationship they had with their boyfriend at the time of their pregnancy. The student therefore agrees with Clear's argument. If the partners of the seven teenage mothers were committed to them, had good paying jobs and wanted to have children with the teenage mothers, the teenage mothers would have argued that the pregnancy was intended. Therefore whether a pregnancy is intended or unintended it depends on the male partner and the relationship he has with the teenage mother. Hence, Clear, et al. (2012) argues that male pregnancy desire may be a stronger risk factor for teenage pregnancy than female pregnancy desire. Furthermore, Kal- Ziol – Guest and Coley (2005) argue that women who view their partner as not dependable, and lacking in financial, emotional and instrumental support are more likely to view their pregnancy as unwanted or unintended.

The one teenage mother proved this notion when she this is what she would say to her teenage self if given an opportunity:

"Lindi": *"I would tell her that if she wants to have a child she should go ahead and have it but only with a man that will support you and be there for you and your child"*

Mcambi and Bhana (2013) argue that teenage mothers are at risk of having lower educational attainment and economic stress. Six out of the nine teenage mothers expressed that they had financial challenges after the child was born. They admitted to being dependent on their families and on the state for financial support therefore research is correct when it identifies low income as one of the negative effects of teenage pregnancy. The teenage mother who did not have financial challenges was financially supported by her working boyfriend.

5.3. **SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORKS OF TEENAGE MOTHERS**

Grandparents or the teenage mother's mother often takes care of the primary need of the teenage mother's child and this has been observed in homes where teenagers bear children (East, 1999). This statement is true because six of the nine teenage mothers have said that without their mothers' support they would not have coped. The teenagers also expressed how important it was for them to get support from their families.

Six out of the nine teenage mothers expressed that they got support from their friends. Support from friends is important to the teenage mother because after a teenager has had a child they are made to feel out of place therefore having friends that care irrespective helps improve the teenage mother's self- esteem and it helps them accept their situation.

All the teenage mothers expressed dissatisfaction at how the community members handled their pregnancy. The teenage mothers were not asking that the community condones their behaviour but for it support them so that they become good mothers to their children.

5.4. **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS OF TEENAGE MOTHERS**

Literature and research on teenage pregnancy claims that that teenage mothers are at risk of unemployment, low income, dependency on the welfare system and low- paying jobs. Thus what this means is that the future of teenage of mothers is foretold and inevitable. However this research is against that kind of thinking instead the research believes that teenage mothers are resilient individual that can achieve the same things as other teenagers that are not pregnant. However the research acknowledges that for a teenage mother to get to where they want to be, it may take more time however it is possible.

5.5. **LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH**

The use of purposive sampling and qualitative research does not allow for the generalization of the study to all the teenage mothers in Katlehong because the sample is not representative of all the teenage mothers in Katlehong. Another limitation of the study is that it does not explore the experiences of young fathers or the fathers of the children identified who are also an important group for further research. Due to the nature of the study the some of the responses given by the participants were socially desirable.

The research study however was able to successfully explore the experiences of the teenage mothers from Katlehong. Researching mothers that had their children in their teenage years is useful in that it demonstrates to people that have come to believe that there is no way forward after teenage pregnancy, that there is a way forward although it does not promise to be easy.

Recruiting participants proved to be challenging as the teenage mothers were sceptical about discussing their experiences therefore it is advisable that exploring the experiences of teenage mothers should rather be done as a longitudinal study.

For future research, more research has to focus on the teenage fathers and how they are affected by teenage pregnancy because teenage pregnancy has become a female phenomenon whereby blame is placed on the teenage mother. Institutions such as church and schools tend to point fingers at the teenage mothers rather than the teenage fathers. Teenage mothers are therefore forced to drop out of school whereby teenage fathers do not feel the same pressure for them to also drop out of school. More research has to be done to understand how young women can be empowered to practice safe sex. Lastly, more research based on the role of the community in teenage pregnancy has to be done.

5.6. **CONCLUSION**

Teenage pregnancy is a social problem that has sparked a lot of interest in research because it affects people differently. A research study on exploring the teenage mother's experiences is important in order to understand the challenges of the teenage mother and how each individual is affected by it. The research through face- to- face interviews explored the teenage mothers' challenges, social support network and their future aspiration in relation to education and employment. The research was able to realise the

importance of the role played by the teenage mothers' mothers and finally the research was able to show the resilience of the teenage mothers as they have faced challenges and demands as a result of teenage pregnancy. Teenage pregnancy continues to increase therefore putting more pressure on researchers to find out what can be done to deal with the social problem.

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APPENDIX A: Participant information sheet

Research title: Exploring the experiences of teenage mothers living in Katlehong, Mofokeng Section: A Retrospective study.

Dear potential participant

Good day,

My name is Khutso Malwa and I am a fourth (final) year student registered for the degree Bachelor of Social Work at the University of the Witwatersrand. As part of the requirements for the degree, I am conducting research on the experiences of teenage mothers. It is hoped that this information may enhance social worker's understanding of the experiences of teenage mothers .

As an identified teenage mother, I therefore invite you to participate in my study.

If you accept my invitation, your participation would be entirely voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time without penalty. There are no consequences or personal benefits of participating in this study. If you agree to take part, I would arrange to interview you at a time and place that is suitable for you. The interview will last approximately one hour. If you choose to participate, you may withdraw from the study at any time and you may also refuse to answer any questions that you feel uncomfortable with answering. If you decide to participate, I will ask your permission to tape-record the interview. No-one other than the researcher and the supervisor will have access to the tapes. The tapes will be kept in a locked cabinet for two years following any publications or for six years if no publications emanate from the study. A copy of your interview transcript without any identifying information will be stored permanently in a locked cupboard and may be used for future research.

Please be assured that your name and personal details will be kept confidential and no identifying information will be included in the final research report. The results of the research may also be used for academic purposes (including books, journals and conference proceedings) and a summary of findings will be made to available to participants on request.

As the interview will include sensitive issues, there is the possibility that you may experience some feelings of emotional distress. Should you therefore feel the need for supportive counselling following the interview, I have arranged for this service to be provided free of charge by Khanya Family Centre. They may be contacted at 011905 0915.

Please contact me, KhutsoMalwa on tel no. 0727105287, or my supervisor, Ms. Laetitia Petersen on tel no. 011717 4474 if you have any questions regarding the study. We shall answer the questions to the best of our ability .

Thank you for taking the time to consider participating in the study

Yours sincerely

Khutso Malwa

Human Research Ethics Committee (Non-Medical) Contact Details:

- Chairperson: Jasper.Knight@wits.ac.za

Administrator: Mrs Lucille Mooragan Tel 011 717 1408 or Lucille.Mooragan@wits.ac.za

APPENDIX B

Consent Form for Participation in the study: Exploring the experiences of teenage mothers living in Katlehong, Mofokeng Section: A Retrospective study.

I hereby consent to participate in the research study. The purpose and procedures of the study have been explained to me.

I understand that:

- My participation in this study is voluntary and I may withdraw from the study without being disadvantaged in any way.
- I may choose not to answer any specific questions asked if I do not wish to do so.
- There are no foreseeable benefits or particular risks associated with participation in this study.
- My identity will be kept strictly confidential, and any information that may identify me, will be removed from the interview transcript.
- A copy of my interview transcript without any identifying information will be stored permanently in a locked cupboard and may be used for future research.
- I understand that my responses will be used in the write up of an honours project and may also be presented in conferences, book chapters, journal articles or books.

Name of Participant: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Human Research Ethics Committee (Non-Medical) Contact Details:

- Chairperson: Jasper.Knight@wits.ac.za
- Administrator: Mrs Lucille Mooragan Tel 011 717 1408 or Lucille.Mooragan@wits.ac.za

APPENDIX C

Consent form for Audio-Taping of the interview for the study:

Exploring the experiences of teenage mothers living in Katlehong, Mofokeng Section: A Retrospective study.

I hereby consent to tape-recording of the interview.

I understand that:

- The recording will be stored in a secure location (a locked cupboard or password-protected computer) with restricted access to the researcher and the research supervisor.
- The recording will be transcribed and any information that could identify me will be removed.
- When the data analysis and write-up of the research study is complete, the audio-recording of the interview will be kept for two years following any publications or for six years if no publications emanate from the study.
- The transcript with all identifying information directly linked to me removed, will be stored permanently and may be used for future research.
- Direct quotes from my interview, without any information that could identify me may be cited in the research report or other write-ups of the research.

Name of participant: …….

Date: ……

Signature of the participant: …….

Human Research Ethics Committee (Non-Medical) Contact Details:

- Chairperson: Jasper.Knight@wits.ac.za
- Administrator: Mrs Lucille Mooragan Tel 011 717 1408 or Lucille.Mooragan@wits.ac.za

APPENDIX D

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Identifying details:

Age:

Occupation or name of current educational institution:

Number of children and their ages?

Marital status- date if married?

EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES OF TEENAGE MOTHERS

1. At what age did you get pregnant with your first child?
2. How did you feel when you discovered that you were going to be mother?
3. After the child was born, were there financial challenges you faced and how did you overcome them?
4. How can you explain the support you got from your family, friends and community?
5. Was there ever a moment where you had regrets about being a mother? If yes please tell me more.
6. What are your future aspirations in terms of education and employment?
7. How did having a child at a young age affect your plans in terms of schooling?
8. If you could change anything what would it be?
9. If you were given an opportunity to talk to your teenage self, now that you have grown, what would you say to her?
10. What or who helped you cope as a teenage mother.

APPENDIX E: TRANSCRIPTS

Teenage mother 1: Thuli (Pseudonym)	Teenage mother 2: Olite (Pseudonym)
Khutso: Interviwer Thuli: Interviewee (teenage mother)	Khutso: Interviewer Olite: Interviwee
Khutso: Hi Thuli (pseudonym) Thuli: Hello Khutso: Thank you for agreeing to this interview. Do you understand the participant sheet or do you have any questions to ask before we start? Thuli: No, I understand everything. Khutso: At what age did you get pregnant with your first child? Thuli: I was 16 years old. Khutso: How did you feel when yuo discovered that you were going to be a mother? Thuli: I was very disappointed and what worse is that I did not know that I was pregnant, my grandmother saw me. Khutso: Okay. So how old were you when you had your second child? Thuli: I was eighteen. Khutso: And the third child? Thuli: I was twenty. Khutso: Okay. So after your children were born were there any financial challenges that you faced and how did you overcome	Khutso: Hi Olite(pseudonym) Olite: Hi Khutso: Thank you for agreeing to this interview. Do you understand the participant sheet or do you have any questions to ask before we start? Olite: Yes I do Khutso: Okay. So, at what age did you get pregnant with your first child? Olite: I was 14 years old. Khutso: How did you feel when yuo discovered that you were going to be a mother? Olite: I was a liitle bit scared. Even tried to take my life but then I got a lot of support from friends. Khutso: so you got a lot of support from friends and what about your family? Olite: No I did not. It was hard for my family actually to accept I was pregnant. Khutso: Okay. So after your children were born were there any financial challenges that you faced and how did you overcome them?

them? Thuli: Yes there were however the father of my children would try to his level best to ensure that the children's basic needs are met. But now, at present because he is no longer present in our lives things are difficult and now my grandmother has to do everything for my children and more especially for my fourth child. Khutso: so how do you meet the needs of the other children? Thuli: I "hassle" Khutso and the child-support grant also assists me because I am able to buy my children shoes and clothes because food is provided by my grandmother. Khutso: How can you explain the support you got from your family? Thuli: I did get support however as time goes my family started judging me, bad-mouthing me and every time any of them were angry they would take it out on me by telling me how I am so busy making children. Khutso: [nodding]...and then from your friends? Thuli: Yes, I did receive support however as you know friends are not the same so even if they might support you behind your back they might be gossiping about you. Khutso: And then the community? Thuli: From the community I did not receive any form of support.	Olite: Yes, a lot because ever since my child was born her father has never financially supported her, 'till this day. It was very difficult because I had to go to school and my child had to go to cretch. So it was challenging. Khutso: so how did you overcome? Olite: My mother helped me becaue she was working at that time. Khutso: How can you explain the support you got from your family? Olite: They did support me but sometimes there were critics but what can I say they did try. But my mother was the one I can say gave me support. My brothers and sister did not want to be involved. Khutso: [nodding]...and then from your friends? Olite: We were still in school and they did not exclude me from things just because I was a mother. They really supported me. Khutso: Did you ever feel like people were staring at school? Olite: [laughing]. Yes I did. But i got through it Khutso: And then the community? Olite: in the community I did not get community but it did not affect me because I received support fro mthe people that mattered. Khutso: Okay. So you mentioned that ou did have regrets please tell me more about those moments.

Khutso: Okay. Was there ever a moment where you had regrets about being amother? Thuli: yes they are moment because as we speak my things are stuck. I cannot go outside or even think of doing anything like looking for a job because my children are not attending school therefore I need to look after them. I am just always stuck with these kid (In the background Thuli's child is getting restless) Khutso: So what are your future aspirations in terms of schooling and employment? Thuli: Right now I would like to get a job and then in terms of school I would rather work first so that i can afford to pay my fees. However i will think about it once I see that my children are well- off. Khutso: [nodding]. So what are you doing now to ensure that you get the job you looking for? Thuli: I ask around and I inform people that are working to let me know if they know of any openings. Khutso: So how did having a child at a young age affect your plans in terms of schooling? Thuli: it really affected me as a result I did not complete secondary school and I had plans about my life whereby I would plan that i will do this and that. But now I do not know if I will be able to achieve those plans Khutso: Are you therefore saying you will	Olite: I nearly killed myself because when i thought of the thing I used to do before I got pregnant.... I felt as if my life had stopped. As if there was no place for me to run to. Khutso: [nodding]. So what stopped you from killing yourself? Olite: My friends convinced me to not do it. And my class teacher also talked me out of it and told me that it was not the end of the world and thata lot of people have overcome teenage pregnancy. Khutso: So what are your future aspirations in terms of schooling and employment? Olite: in terms of education I am planning to go back to school, seeing that I passed my matric very well so I am going to go back to school to study law or teaching. But I study teaching I definitely want to work at a private school [lauging]. So that I can give to my children the kind of education that I want. Khutso: [nodding]. So what are you doing at the moment? Olite: at the moment I am a sales agent for Kaizer chiefs. Khutso: So since you want to go back to school how are you planning to pay for your tuition fees? Olite: I have applied for NSFAS, still waiting for a response Khutso: So how did having a child at a young age affect your plans in terms of schooling?

never be able to reach the goals you had? Thuli: I think I will be able to however I will need someone who will babysit my children while I am busy sorting my life out. But my grandmother can't because she is working and my little sister wants nothing to do with babysitting. Khutso: So if you could change anything what would it be? Thuli: I would change the living conditions of my children because I can see that they just living because they were brought into this world but the life they are living is not good. Like my son, he was supposed to be in school and now he is at home looking at his friends going to school and I can see that he wishes to also go to school like other kids. Khutso: So if you were given an opportunity to talk to your teenage self, now that you have grown, what would you say to her? Thuli: I would tell her that she is fumbling, [laughing] yes she is fumbling. Paying attention to men without education is not right. It is just not right. What made me involve myself with boys is money. I loved money more than school and then I end up having children. I end up being in a relationship with for money and not love and the man knew my situation and used money therefore to get me to stay in the relationship. Then I end up bearing children	Olite: It did try but I managed the situation because there were time where I had to go to school and there was no one to babysit my child but I managed to pass even in those challenges. I would study at night while the child is crying but I conquered. Khutso: So if you could change anything what would it be? Olite: I would not say not having a child because I love my daughter so much and then maybe i would change the age I got my child in. Maybe if I fell pregnant with her at the age of 25 years. Khutso: So if you were given an opportunity to talk to your teenage self, now that you have grown, what would you say to her? Olite: [laughing]. I would tell her to focus on school and stop doing things because she is wants to please her friends and then her future will be bright because at that age we do thing because of peer pressure. Khutso: [nodding]. So what or who helped you cope as a teenage mother? Olite: My mother helped me. She kept me strong and I would also say my former class teacher also helped cope. Khutso: Okay Olite. Thank you once again for allowing me to interview you Olite: I must say, I enjoyed the interview thank you.

for this man however as time went by whenever I slept with this man it felt as if he was raping me because I did not love him. Then when he lost his job, I completely and totally lost interest in the man then I went back home. But I realised that what I did was wrong because I was supposed to learn from my experiences with my first child. My grandmother helped me and then I had my second child, and third and fourth. Which is wrong because now I do not know what to do with so many children, I do not have strength and it is only now I see that what I did was wrong because now I am alone and I do not even know where to start. I only get grant for two child which is inadequate for four children. Khutso: [nodding] . I cannot imagine... so what or who helped you cope as a teenage mother? Thuli: N-O-T-H-I-N-G and no one is helping me to cope Khutso. I am not coping at all. I just feel stuck and as i am doing one thing everyday and that is waking up, eating, looking after my children and sleeping.	

Teenage mother 3: Wandi (Pseudonym)	Teenage mother 4: Angel (Pseudonym)	
Khutso: Interviewer Wandi: Interviwee Khutso: Hi Wandi(pseudonym) Wandi: Hello Khutso: Thank you for agreeing to this interview. Do you understand the participant sheet or do you have any questions to ask before we start? Wandi: Yes I do. Khutso: Okay. So, at what age did you get pregnant with your first child? Wandi: I was 16 years old. Khutso: How did you feel when yuo discovered that you were going to be a mother? Wandi: I was scared. I thought my parents are going to kill me. Khutso: Okay. So after your children were born were there any financial challenges that you faced and how did you overcome them? Wandi: Yes. My parents helped me Khutso: Where was the father of your child? Wandi: He was not around. He did not want to support our child. We broke up with him right after the child was born. Khutso: So you mentioned that your parents supported you by buying clothes and food for your child. Wandi: Yes	Khutso: Interviewer Angel: Interviwee Khutso: Hi Angel(pseudonym) Khutso: Do you understand the participant sheet? Angel: Yes, I do Khutso: Okay. So tell me, at what age did you get pregnant with your first child? Angel: I was 16 years old. Khutso: How did you feel when you discovered that you were going to be a mother? Angel: I did not care. Khutso: Okay. So after your children were born were there any financial challenges that you faced and how did you overcome them? Angel: I do not know. I was always at the tavern and I would leave my child with my mother. Khutso: Are things still that way? Angel: Yes. I left my child with her grandmother. Khutso: How can you explain the support you got from your family? Angel: I did not sleep at home so I do not know. Khutso: [nodding]...and then from your friends? Angel: My friends and I drink together. Khutso: And the community?	

Khutso: And then did the community support you? Wandi: The community members wanted nothing to do with me and they would argue that I was not brought up well. Khutso: And your friends? Wandi: They did not support me the turned against me as they felt I was going to influence them badly. Khutso: Were there ever moments were you regretted being a mother? Wandi: Yes. People made mde feel bad because they were gossiping about me. Khutso: So what are your future aspirations in terms of schooling and employment? Wandi: I would like to have a job Khutso: [nodding]. So wouls you like to go back toschool? Wandi: Yes. I would like to complete school and study to become a doctor. Khutso: So how did having a child at a young age affect your plans in terms of schooling? Khutso: So if you could change anything what would it be? Wandi: I would change my life, and start afresh Khutso: So if you were given an opportunity to talk to your teenage self, now that you have grown, what would you say to her? Wandi: I would tell her that boys are no good, they will mess up your life. Khutso: [nodding]. So what or who helped	Angel:I do not care about the community and what they say. Khutso: was there ever a moment where you regretted being a mother? Angel: No I had no regrets because my mother took care of my child. Khutso: So what are your future aspirations in terms of schooling and employment? Angel: I want to own a tavern. Khutso: So how did having a child at a young age affect your plans in terms of schooling? Angel: I had already dropped out of school by the time I got pregnancy. Khutso: So if you could change anything what would it be? Angel: I would change my child because I did not want her. Khutso: So if you were given an opportunity to talk to your teenage self, now that you have grown, what would you say to her? Angel: I would tell her not to drop out of school, for her to carry on with her education and not go to parties Khutso: Ok thank you Angel. Angel: Okay. Bye.	

you cope as a teenage mother? Wandi: My child and parents helped me cope Khutso: Okay Wandi, thank you. Wandi: Okay. Bye.		

Teenage mother 5: Thabi (Pseudonym)	Teenage mother 6: Tshepi (Pseudonym)
Khutso: Interviewer Thabi: Interviwee	Khutso: Interviewer Tshepi: Interviwee
Khutso: Hi Thabi (pseudonym) Thabi: Hello. Khutso: Thank you for agreeing to this interview. Do you understand the participant sheet? Thabi: Yes I do. Khutso: Okay. So, at what age did you get pregnant with your first child? Thabi: I became pregnant with my first child at the age of 15 years. Khutso: How did you feel when yuo discovered that you were going to be a mother? Thabi: yooooo...I was very scared,I did not understand I was even considering an getting an abortion then I changed my mind because killing a child was not good. Khutso: Sho, I cannot imagine. So after your children were born were there any financial challenges that you faced and how did you overcome them? Thabi: Yes because the child's father did	Khutso: Hi Tshepi (pseudonym) Tshepi: Hello Khutso: Do you understand the participant sheet? Tshepi: yes I. do Khutso: Okay. So, at what age did you get pregnant with your first child? Tshepi: I was 17 years old. Khutso: How did you feel when yuo discovered that you were going to be a mother? Tshepi: Yoooo.it was not easy if was hard because my mother told me that I should not have xhildren at a young age so I did not lisen. Khutso: Okay. So after your children were born were there any financial challenges that you faced and how did you overcome them? Tshepi: Yes there were because my mother is a single- parent who used grant money to provide for our needs.

not want to buy the necessary needs of the child and my parents did not support me at first however as time went they supported me and the child. Khutso: So you are saying hat your family suppoted you financially? Thabi: Yes. Khutso: Are and the father of the child still together? Thabi: No. Khutso:Does he support the child now? Thabi: No he does not. Khutso: And then did the community support you? Thabi: No I did not receive any support. The community members would gossip about me. Khutso: And your friends? Thabi: My friends were amazing because they would even give me monetary gifts for the child and I. Khutso: Were there ever moments were you regretted being a mother? Thabi: Yes I did beause I thought to myself that my friends are at school and I am busy at home looking after my child. Khutso: So what are your future aspirations in terms of schooling and employment? Thabi: in terms of eduction I want to go back to school and study to become a doctor. Khutso: So how did having a child at a young age affect your plans in terms of	Khutso: So how did you support your child Tshepi: I receive grant for him and I also work at Pick'n pay as a packer, although I earn peanuts. Khutso: So how can you describe the support you got from your family? Tshepi: My family was not please with the idea of me being pregnant so things were not easy. I would say my mother was the only person I can say supported me. Khutso: And your friends? Tshepi: My friends really supported me and they would also give me on tough days money for me to buy nappies for my child. Khutso: And then did the community support you? Tshepi: people are always talking so I was judgded and badmouthed. Khutso: Were there ever moments were you regretted being a mother? Tshepi: I had a lot of those moments because being a young mother is not easy. Khutso: [nodding]. So what are your future aspirations in terms of schooling and employment? Tshepi: I am currently in college studying nursing therefore in a few years time I will be a qualified nurse. Khutso: So how did having a child at a young age affect your plans in terms of schooling? Tshepi: It affected me because for one year

schooling? Thabi: I had to drop out of school because there was no one to llokafter my child. Khutso: So if you could change anything what would it be? Thabi: I would change teenage pregnancy Khutso: So if you were given an opportunity to talk to your teenage self, now that you have grown, what would you say to her? Thabi: I would tell 15 year old Thabi to stop drinking, going around with boys or sleeping around because that can lead to pregnancy Khutso: [nodding]. So what or who helped you cope as a teenage mother? Thabi: My mother really helped me cope. Khutso: Ok Thabi. Thank you. Thabi: Ok thank you. Bye.	I had to drop out of school and I could not finish secondary school Khutso: So if you could change anything what would it be? Tshepi: wow what a question...shew, I would not want to change anything because it is done and I love my child so much. Khutso: So if you were given an opportunity to talk to your teenage self, now that you have grown, what would you say to her? Tshepi: I would tell that having a child at a young age is very challenging especially raising a child while you as the teenage mother are being raised by single- parent. She must not like boys and stay away from alcohol. Khutso: [nodding]. So what or who helped you cope as a teenage mother? Tshepi:Its my mother because she also had her first child at an early age thus she understood what I was going through. Khutso: Okay Tshepi thank you. Tshepi: Ok Khutso, thank you bye.

Teenage mother 7: Thandi (Pseudonym)	Teenage mother 8: Lindi (Pseudonym)
Khutso: Interviewer Thandi: Interviwee	Khutso: Interviewer Lindi: Interviwee
Khutso: Hi Thandi (pseudonym) Thandi: Hello. Khutso: Do you understand the participant	Khutso: Hi Lindi (pseudonym) Lindi: Hi Khutso: Do you understand the participant

sheet? Thandi: Yes I understand it. Khutso: Okay. So, at what age did you get pregnant with your first child? Thandi: I was 18 years old. Khutso: How did you feel when yuo discovered that you were going to be a mother? Thandi: I was embarrassed because I still young and I had never been a mother before. Khutso: Okay. So after your children were born were there any financial challenges that you faced and how did you overcome them? Thandi: Yes I did have but the father of my child and his family helped me financially and my family also helped me. Khutso: So are you still together with the father of your child? Thandi: No we broke- up. Khutso: So you mentioned that your parents supported you. Thandi: Yes. Khutso: What about your friends? Thandi: They did support me and they were there for me whenever I needed them. Khutso: And then did the community support you? Thandi: the community members would gossip about me Khutso: Were there ever moments were you	sheet? Lindi: Yes I understand it. Khutso: Okay. So, at what age did you get pregnant with your first child? Lindi: I was 16 years old. Khutso: How did you feel when yuo discovered that you were going to be a mother? Lindi: I was happy about it because my boyfriend was there for me Khutso: Okay. So after your child were born were there any financial challenges that you faced and how did you overcome them? Lindi: No there were none because my boyfriend works Khutso: So how old was your boyfriend when you were sisxteen? Lindi: He was 26 years old. Khutso: So did you receive support from your family? Lindi: From my mother and aunty I receive support Khutso: And your friends? Lindi: No I did not, they were jealous because their boyfriend were not working Khutso: And then did the community support you? Lindi: the community was just okay Khutso: Were there ever moments were you regretted being a mother? Lindi: No. I had none at all because my boyfriend was supporting me as I have said. Khutso: So what are your future aspirations

regretted being a mother? Thandi: Yes there were because I could not spend time with my friends anymore because i had to take care of my child Khutso: So what are your future aspirations in terms of schooling and employment? Thandi: I would like to be a persecutor Khutso: So what are you busy with currently? Thandi: I am doing my last year in university Khutso: So how did having a child at a young age affect your plans in terms of schooling? Thandi: I had to drop out therefore I lost a year. Khutso: So if you could change anything what would it be? Thandi: I am not sure because for me I had allthe support I needed. Khutso: So if you were given an opportunity to talk to your teenage self, now that you have grown, what would you say to her? Thandi: I would tell to stop listening to friends and focus on her future. Khutso: [nodding]. So what or who helped you cope as a teenage mother? Thandi: It was my mother. Khutso: Okay. Thank you Thandi. Thandi: Ok. Goodbye.	in terms of schooling and employment? Lindi: I am currently doing my matric and I want to finish and work. Khutso: So how did having a child at a young age affect your plans in terms of schooling? Lindi: It did not affect me because my mother looked after my child while I was school. Khutso: So if you could change anything what would it be? Lindi: I would not change anything because my child is fine and alive. Khutso: So if you were given an opportunity to talk to your teenage self, now that you have grown, what would you say to her? Lindi: I would tell her that if she wants to have a child she shoul go ahead an have it but only with a man that will support you and be there for you and your child Khutso: [nodding]. So what or who helped you cope as a teenage mother? Lindi: I would say my boyfriend, his family and my mother. Khutso: Thank you Lindi. Lindi: No, thank you. Ok bye.

Teenage mother 9: Momo (Pseudonym)

Khutso: Interviewer

Momo: Interviwee

Khutso: Hi Momo (pseudonym)

Momo: Hello

Khutso: How are you?

Momo: I am good and you?

Khutso: I am good thanx. Feel free to answer in the language of your choice.

Khutso: Do you understand the participant sheet?

Momo: Yes I do.

Khutso: Okay. So, at what age did you get pregnant with your first child?

Momo: I was 16 years.

Khutso: How did you feel when yuo discovered that you were going to be a mother?

Momo: it did not feel good because I wanted study further to become a pilot.

Khutso: Okay. So after your children were born were there any financial challenges that you faced and how did you overcome them?

Momo: No because my mother supported me.

Khutso: So you mentioned that your mother supported you.

Momo: Yes actually my whole family supported me

Khutso: What about your friends?

Momo: they did not support me

Khutso: And then did the community support you?

Momo: No they also did not.

Khutso: Were there ever moments were you regretted being a mother?

Momo: Yes there was, because I really wanted to study.

Khutso: So what are your future aspirations in terms of schooling and employment?

Momo: I want to go back to school and carry on from where I left off which was grade nine.

Khutso: So how did having a child at a young age affect your plans in terms of schooling?

Momo: I had to drop out and look after my child.

Khutso: So if you could change anything what would it be?

Momo: I would like to change having a child at a young age

Khutso: So if you were given an opportunity to talk to your teenage self, now that you have grown, what would you say to her?

Momo: I would tell her to not have a child at a young age and for her to study hard,

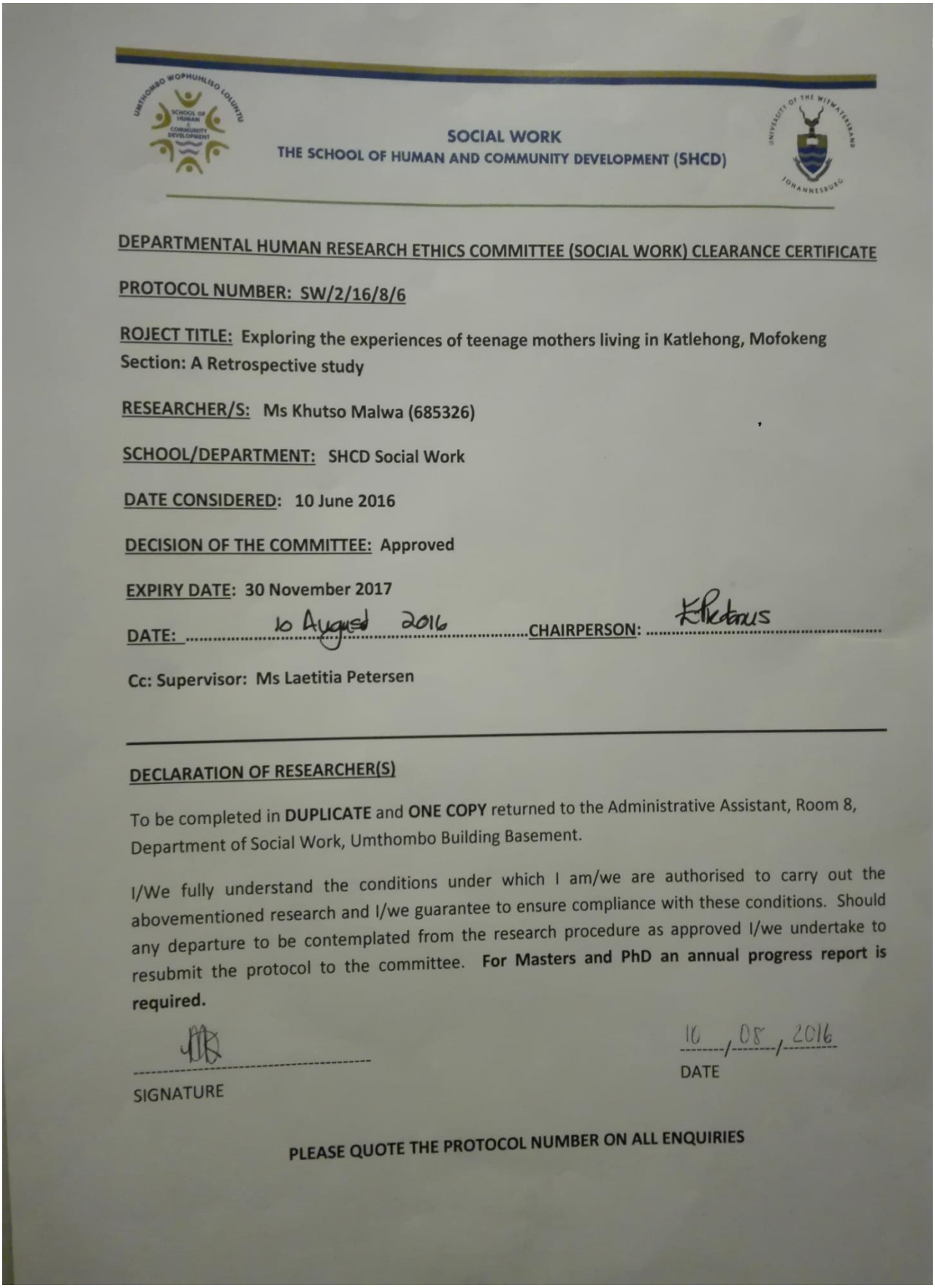
Khutso: [nodding]. So what or who helped you cope as a teenage mother?

Momo: My mother helped me cope.

Khutso: Okay, thank you momo.

Momo: Okay. Goodbye.

APPENDIX F: ETHICS CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE



SOCIAL WORK
THE SCHOOL OF HUMAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SHCD)

DEPARTMENTAL HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (SOCIAL WORK) CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

PROTOCOL NUMBER: SW/2/16/8/6

ROJECT TITLE: Exploring the experiences of teenage mothers living in Katlehong, Mofokeng Section: A Retrospective study

RESEARCHER/S: Ms Khutso Malwa (685326)

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT: SHCD Social Work

DATE CONSIDERED: 10 June 2016

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE: Approved

EXPIRY DATE: 30 November 2017

DATE: 10 August 2016 **CHAIRPERSON:** K Petersen

Cc: Supervisor: Ms Laetitia Petersen

DECLARATION OF RESEARCHER(S)

To be completed in **DUPLICATE** and **ONE COPY** returned to the Administrative Assistant, Room 8, Department of Social Work, Umthombo Building Basement.

I/We fully understand the conditions under which I am/we are authorised to carry out the abovementioned research and I/we guarantee to ensure compliance with these conditions. Should any departure to be contemplated from the research procedure as approved I/we undertake to resubmit the protocol to the committee. **For Masters and PhD an annual progress report is required.**

SIGNATURE

16 / 08 / 2016
DATE

PLEASE QUOTE THE PROTOCOL NUMBER ON ALL ENQUIRIES