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PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN CAREER DEVELOPMENT: PERCEPTIONS OF DISADVANTAGED GRADE 9 LEARNERS

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A dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, Community-Based Counselling Psychology

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore, the nature and the extent of parental involvement in the career development of young adolescents through the perceptions of disadvantaged young adolescents. The two-fold goals were to identify the role of parents and the awareness of other barriers in the career development of young adolescents. Therefore, qualitative research method of semi-structured interviews was applied to fourteen volunteers (eight boys and six girls) from a Secondary School at Mabopane Township in the North West Province. In accordance with previous trends, parental involvement was revealed by young adolescents to be an important factor and was further categorised as constructive and destructive parental involvement. Furthermore, the effects of parental involvement in the development of the young adolescents' career self-concept and self-efficacy were revealed. Destructive parental involvement and low household incomes were identified as career barriers. Most young adolescents demonstrated a strong resilience in overcoming these barriers. The study also illustrated a dire need for attention to and funding of career programmes aimed at empowering disadvantaged parents and young adolescents.

Keywords: Parents, parental involvement, career, career development, young adolescents, disadvantaged communities, career barriers, career counselling, career self-concept and self-efficacy.

Declaration

I hereby declare that this research report is my own work. Any assistance obtained for this dissertation has been in the form of professional guidance and supervision. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Arts in Community-Based Counselling Psychology, at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at any other University.

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Orepa Sefepi Maite

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