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UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

An exploration of dramatic rituals to facilitate self-reflexivity among male adolescents who are incarcerated.

RESEARCH REPORT: MASTERS DEGREE IN DRAMA THERAPY

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YEAR: 2019

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DECLARATION

- I know that it is wrong to use another author's work and pretend that it is my own.
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- I have done the word processing and formatting of this research report as an individual. I understand that the correct formatting is part of the mark for this work and that it is therefore wrong for another to do it for me.
- This research report is submitted for the degree of Masters in Drama Therapy at the University of Witwatersrand and it has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination at this or any other University.

_____ _____

Signature: Boitumelo Mokolopeng Date

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Bosasa Management for granting me the opportunity to conduct my research project at their center. I would also like to thank the team of social workers and care workers for their heart-warming reception and support.

I also take my hat off to the group of six dedicated participants who entrusted me with their stories. You have all shown a great amount of humility and sincerity on your journey and I personally believe that you all deserve a second chance.

A special thanks to the Oppenheimer Memorial trust and Mellon Foundation for financing my studies and making it possible for me to complete my studies.

A special acknowledgement also goes to Drama for life, for making it possible for us to pursue this career path in our own homeland. I pride myself in being among few privileged black male students who have undertaken this historic journey.

This research report would have not been possible without Warren Nebe. I want to say thank you for your intellectual stimulation and guidance.

Let me also use this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to my family for their unconditional love and support that have sustained me throughout the period of my research studies.

I would also like to give glory and praises to God Almighty for spiritual guidance and for speaking through me as I followed the right path in serving my call.

FOREWORD

"I believe that my unpleasant childhood memories have guided me along the path of compassion. It is this divine synchronicity that has compelled me to navigate the path and to offer redemption to every boy-child who have been self-destructed by their particular adverse circumstances."

- *Boitumelo Mokolopeng* -

ABSTRACT

This empirical study explores the use of dramatic rituals to facilitate self-reflexivity in male adolescents who are incarcerated at the Bosasa Youth Centre. It examines the attitudes, emotions and behaviour of the participants through the use of the distinctive techniques of drama therapy.

The research study describes a group of male adolescents who are incarcerated. By integrating several research approaches to cultivated themes. It further investigated precipitating factors of delinquent behaviour. This qualitative study also examines barriers that hinder the process of rehabilitation by attempting to dismantle the stigma attached to therapy in juvenile facilities.

The research study demonstrates how the theory and the praxis of drama therapy together with self-reflexivity are fundamental tools to be used when working with vulnerable youth who have been detained. It further demonstrates how enhanced self-awareness can impact positively on the behavior of six inmates in a way that encourages forgiveness of self and others and can achieve wholeness. The term inmates and offenders are used interchangeably in the research study.

Key words: Drama rituals, self-reflexivity, incarcerated, inmates/offenders, juvenile

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