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ADOLESCENTS PERCEPTION OF PATERNAL FIGURES' INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR SEXUALITY EDUCATION

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A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Community-Counselling Psychology

AUGUST 2006

ABSTRACT

The main aim of the study was to investigate adolescents' perceptions of the paternal/father figures' involvement in their sexuality education. Other aims included to determine adolescents' perception of paternal/father figures' knowledge of sexuality education; aspects/topics that are discussed; and the gender differences in paternal figures' involvement with adolescents' sexuality education. The study sample consisted of 67 adolescents aged between 13-19 years and was chosen through purposive, non-probability sampling technique from Illinge Secondary School at Vosloorus Township, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Council. A questionnaire designed by the researcher was used to collect the data for the study. The results of the present study indicated that a small number of the adolescents perceive their paternal/father figures as involved in the discussion of sexuality matters. Nevertheless a highest number of the participants in the study perceive a paternal figure as a right source of sexuality education. However, the study shows that participants perceive their paternal figures as authoritarian and having poor communication about sexuality matters. This study indicated that there is no trend in adolescents' perceptions of their paternal figures' adequacy and inadequacy of knowledge regarding competency/incompetence in discussing sexuality topics. The main topic that the participants indicated to be receiving paternal figures' attention is adolescents' pregnancy and parenting. However, there is an indication that sexual intercourse is not mentioned as the antecedent to pregnancy. A large number of adolescents in this study indicated that there is a presence of a significant gender difference in the sexuality education. An increased father forum as well as involvement of social institutions and the professional and community based work force is recommended to address the need for father/paternal figures' involvement in the sexuality education of adolescents.

DECLARATION

I hereby solemnly declare that the copy of this dissertation is my own unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Arts in Community Counselling Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination at any other university.

_____

Bafana P. Siboyana (Mr)

_____Day of _____, 2006

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all people / institution that assisted me in undertaking and concluding this research study. In particular I am indebted to the following:

The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) for granting the permission to undertake the study in one of the secondary school at Vosloorus Township; My supervisor Professor Thokozile Mayekiso for her patience, relentless support and guidance. Dr. A. Welte for his kindness, professional advice and assistance in computer and analysis of the data; The principal, Mr Tshivula and the school guidance teacher Mr Sibeko for taking his time out to help with the administration and organising of the learners from the classes and their respective teachers.

My sincere thanks go to the learners and their parents who consented to the children's participation in the study. I would also like to express my gratitude to Tonnaite Bradley whose psychotherapeutic intervention contributed much in helping me to thrive under difficult circumstances during my study.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest respect, and gratitude to GOD whose mercies strengthened and helped me all the way through (TO GOD BE THE GLORY!).

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