

ABSTRACT

The provider-role continues to be strongly linked to ideas of manhood even in the era where family and work roles have changed. This is mainly because society continues to esteem notions of hegemonic masculinities that reduce men to a single role of providing. Such a discourse is problematic however, especially during the quandary of unemployment that South Africa finds itself. With this in mind, men find themselves battling not only with the stigma arising from their inability to perform manhood (providing) but also with the harsh labour market that refuses them the means to perform this role. As a consequence, men suffer often undiagnosed depression leading to suicide, harmful behaviour and loss of hope for a better future. Through the qualitative research approach, this study adopted the Social Identity Theory, the Eco-systems Approach as well as the Functionalism Theory towards exploring the effects of strong identification with the idea of man as provider on the psychosocial wellbeing of black men during unemployment. Individual interviews were conducted with twenty-two young men aged between 18 and 35 from Soweto as well as three social workers who were previously placed as student social workers with the Ipelegeng Youth Leadership and Development Programme. Through the use of the thematic content analysis, this study found that young men identified with the provider role and therefore participated in informal work under hazardous conditions in order to fulfil this role. Where the men failed to fulfil the provider role, communities often ridiculed and shamed them leading them to feeling stressed and depressed. The study also found that the young men were not utilising psychosocial services; owing to the notions of traditional masculinities; general lack of services and perceived ineffectiveness of programs. This report thus concludes that interventions that are tailored to tackle men's problems should be developed and be made widely available, being stringently cognisant of contextual cultural dynamics however.

Key words: masculinities, provider role, unemployment, psychosocial wellbeing, black men.

DECLARATION

I, the undersigned hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work and has never been published or submitted elsewhere in fulfilment of any other degree.

Ms Naledi Selebano

Signature

Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the Almighty God, my Daddy, thank you for your faithfulness. Indeed you are able to do exceeding abundantly above all that I ask or think.

To Prof. Grace Khunou, my supervisor, I am yet to find another being that believes in my ideas and potential as much as you and Jesus do. Thank you for your guidance and support.

I would also like to thank Prof. Ruksana, the Dean of Humanities, who paid for my fees. If it weren't for you, the proposal to this study would still be gathering dust. Thank you.

To the staff at Ipelegeng Youth Leadership and Development Programme, thank you for all your support and for availing your facilities to me. Because of that, my field work experience was not as rocky as I had expected it to be.

I would also like to express my sincerest gratitude to the young men who allowed me into their lives. This dissertation wouldn't exist without you.

I am grateful to the three social workers that agreed to participate in this study. The time I spent with you really reminded me of why I decided to stay in this discipline. I admire your passion and love for what you do.

To my sisters Mapaseka Borias and Regomoditswe Molosankwe, thank you for your support.

My love also goes to my mother, I am the woman that I am because of the woman that you are. Thank you for everything mama!

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	African National Congress
AsgiSA	Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
FAMSA	Family and Marriage Association of South Africa
GDP	Growth Domestic Product
GEAR	Growth Employment and Redistribution
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IYLDP	Ipelegeng Youth Development Program
JIPSA	Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SACP	South African Communist Party
SANCA	South African National Council on Alcoholism and drug dependence
SAPS	South African Police Services
SEIFSA	Steel and engineering industry federation of South Africa
SME	Small and medium enterprises
TCC	Thuthuzela Care Centres
UIF	Unemployment Insurance Fund
WHO	World Health Organisation