

Teenage Pregnancy in South African Schools: from vulnerability to empowerment

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JPTD, FDE, B.Ed. HONS.

A dissertation submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

MAGISTER EDUCATIONIS

in

Student Support

NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY

(VAAL TRIANGLE FACULTY)

SUPERVISOR: DR M.J. MALINDI

VAN DER BIJLPARK

2012

DECLARATION BY LANGUAGE EDITOR



30 November 2012

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

DECLARATION: LANGUAGE EDITING of Masters in Educational Psychology

I hereby declare that I have edited the Masters in Educational Psychology dissertation of Ms Motlalepule Mothibe and found the written work to be free of ambiguity and obvious errors.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Khomotso Bopape".

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- My supervisor, Dr M.J. Malindi, for his patience and expert advice.
- The staff of the North West University (Vaal Triangle) for their assistance.
- Me Bopape, for editing my work.
- To all the participants in this study who unconditionally and selflessly gave their co-operation. I will forever remain indebted to them.
- My husband, Sam Rantie, who spent sleepless nights as if he was studying, trying to support me.
- My sisters, Pinkie, Sannah and Lettia Mothibe, for moral support. My niece and nephews, Teboho, Makoena, Tladi and Rearabetswe.
- Ms Duduzile Tsoari, the late Ms Thandi Tshabalala, Mr Molelekoa for motivating me to study. Friends and colleagues who were also supportive to me and believed in me.

SUMMARY

One of the most serious phenomena plaguing families and societies worldwide is teenage pregnancy. In South Africa teenage mothers are permitted to return to schools after giving birth however, not much is done to support these mothers in order to ensure that they are not psychosocially vulnerable and not drop out of school due to possible stress, frustration and lack of scholastic progress. This is where this study is located.

This was a qualitative study that used symbolic drawings accompanied by short descriptive narratives and individual, semi-structured interviews as data collection methods.

The study involved 10 teenage mothers who had been re-admitted to schools after giving birth. The participants were aged 15 and 16 and in grades 9 and 10. The findings show that teenage mothers enjoyed family support, had dreams for the future, were anchored in religion and spirituality, had determination and that they had abilities to learn from mistakes.

I could not locate a study that had focused on the typical vulnerabilities and empowerment of teenage mothers. Therefore, this study provides useful insight into the factors that are known to render young girls vulnerable to teenage pregnancy and the resultant motherhood and the personal and ecological processes that combine in complex ways in order to enable young mothers to cope resiliently. The findings add to theory and have implications for practice

Key words: Resilience; Vulnerability; Risks; Protective Resources; Positive Psychology; Teenage Pregnancy

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my late parents, Mrs Pakiso Jeanette and Mr David Mothibe who instilled the love of education and hard work in me. My mother inspired and motivated me in so many ways.