
Editorial

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This issue consists of five articles. The first article by Anathi Onceya and Nkosiya Dube is entitled “Perceptions of caregivers regarding factors that perpetuate differential parenting in Katlehong, Johannesburg South Africa”. This article highlights the issue of differential parenting which is the result of failure by caregivers to treat children equally and the unconscious giving of love and attention to one child over the other. Differential parenting can lead to animosity between siblings, parents and family members. The article sought to deepen our understanding of different parenting styles and the development of programmatic guidelines on good parenting. Differential parenting can have positive as well as negative consequences on children's self-esteem and adjustment as well as how they view others and their world outlook. Relationship issues can be influenced negatively or positively by differential parenting. How children react to different situations is linked to differential parenting. Several factors are linked to differential parenting and these include the way children behave, age of the child, step parenting and family's socio-economic status. Parenting is critical to building of strong individuals, families and communities. The article draws its

conclusions from a qualitative exploratory study design that used a semi-structured interview schedule.

The second article by Eleanor A. Hendricks entitled “Foster Parents; views on the sufficiency of foster care grant in meeting the basic needs of recipients in Alice, South Africa ”, observes that generally the foster grant is seen as sufficient in meeting basic needs of the recipients. The beneficiaries' basic needs met through the grant included food, educational, housing and clothing. While grant was considered as sufficient additional funds were needed so that the beneficiaries could live a more decent life that takes into account the emotional, physical and spiritual growth of children. The study adopted a qualitative research design that utilised in-depth interviews to collect data from a purposively selected sample. The article calls for greater involvement of social workers in the lives of foster families. It is also strongly recommended that government increases the number of social workers who can render more support to foster families.

The third article by John Boulard Forkuor is entitled “Reasons, practices and procedures that bring mothers to the streets as street beggars: a qualitative study of mothers with twin children begging in the streets of Ghana”. The article draws its conclusions from a study situated in Kumasi Ghana's second-largest city. Kumasi has an extensive highly congested road network. The article focuses mostly on women mothers who beg in the city of Kumasi accompanied by their twin children. The city of Kumasi's streets are a major source of livelihood for mothers who beg with their twin children. The reasons why mothers with twins beg are highly gendered and cultural. The study on which the article draws its conclusions utilised purposive and snowball sampling. It is a qualitative study that investigated the reasons, practices and procedures which inform street begging among mothers with

their twin children in Ghana. The health challenges of the twin children as well as that of their mothers are the main reasons for begging on the street. It is strongly believed that a person receives enormous blessings by giving alms to the mother of twins. There is a strong intersection between cultural rights and human rights, and this needs to be taken into account in order to promote the wellbeing of mothers and their twin children who beg on the streets.

The fourth article by Tumani Malinga entitled “Factors influencing adulthood adversities among low-income women in Botswana”, explores the childhood experiences of low-income single mothers in Botswana. The article seeks to understand the psychosocial pathways that might have exposed these women single mothers to risk. The article embraces a narrative research approach based on face-to-face interviews conducted with low-income single Botswana mothers. Childhood lived experiences are an important influence for future behaviour and can be positive, negative, or both. Lived experiences can be framed by the family of origin, cultural practices, and by community and neighborhood interactions. The article focuses on the adversities the single women faced in their childhood. The article utilizes the life course model which puts an emphasis on links between the life events and the transitions from childhood, to adolescence, and to adulthood. Some of the single mothers faced adversities within their families that include abuse, neglect, and exposure to domestic violence and substance use. In their communities, the environment was not supportive, the educational system could not allow them to stay in schools due to lack of funds while the health facilities could not allow them to access reproductive health services. Because of these multiple adverse factors interventions need to be targeted at multiple levels which can result in promoting safe sex, preventing pregnancy, and avoiding sexual violence and coercion. Preventive interventions are necessary in order to mitigate the negative experiences that young females

undergo in childhood, adolescence and adulthood.

The last article in this volume is by Thulane Gxubane entitled “Challenges regarding the implementation of some provisions of the Child Justice Act: lessons from South Africa”. The Child Justice Act (75 of 2008) is a piece of legislation that sets a separate criminal justice system for children and youth who come into contact with the law, by recognising that their needs are different to their adult counterparts. The Child Justice Act is a great piece of legislation relating to child justice, however some notable challenges in implementation of provisions in the Act need attention. This article examines the challenges involved in the implementation of selected provisions of the South African Child Justice Act and proposes recommendations on how these challenges could be overcome in an effort to achieve the overall aims and objectives of the Act. The provisions of the Act that this article focuses on include, training probation officers as specialised youth justice authorities, pre-trial assessments, accreditation of youth diversion programmes, pre-sentence reports, and restorative justice sentences. The Act seeks to promote a rights-based approach to managing children and youth accused of crimes while also encouraging accountability in order to break the cycle of crime. The article offers insights on solving implementation challenges. The article makes two sets of recommendations. Firstly, recommendations to the employers of probation officers regarding the nature of support and infrastructure they require to be able to deliver efficient probation services in South Africa; and, secondly, lessons for other countries with a similar socio-economic background as that of South Africa, and the need to establish separate laws for managing child and youth offenders.