

# **The perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse**

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requirements for the degree *Master of Social Work in  
Forensic Practice* at the Potchefstroom Campus of North-  
West University

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## **DEDICATION**

This study is dedicated to all the children in South Africa who still suffer silently at the hand of sexual abuse, on a daily basis. This study is also dedicated to the many that are still unable to disclose the abuse to anyone as a result of many barriers, such as fear, stigma and poor social circumstances. Remember that it is never too late to reach out for a hand, and seek assistance. This research is also dedicated to all the stakeholders who are doing everything in their power to see this pandemic come to an end.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank Lord God my Saviour for giving me strength, wisdom and endurance to complete this study. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the following people:

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- The Department of Social Development and SAVF (Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp and Carletonville) for their permission to interview the Social Workers and the Setswana parents that were identified.
- All the participants who contributed and participated in the study.

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## STATEMENT

I, **Seadimo Boitumelo Chabeletsane** hereby state that the manuscript with the title:

**The perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse**

is my own work.



.....  
S.B Chabeletsane

2016/04/18

.....  
Date

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## SUMMARY

**Title:** The perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse

**Key words:** *Setswana, parents, disclosure, child, sexual abuse*

The researcher is employed as a social worker by the Department of Social Development at Tlokwe Service Point. She was first designated to the child care and protection programme, and thereafter was transferred to restorative services. During her years in the child care and protection programme, she was able to observe that many Setswana children who were believed to have been sexually abused displayed difficulties in disclosing the sexual abuse. While interviewing these children, it became apparent that their parents and their culture may play a role in their decision to refrain from disclosing the sexual abuse. Literature has shown that the parent-child relationship plays a significant role in the disclosure of child sexual abuse. This relationship is able to make the child feel safe, rebuild trust, and feel secure enough to disclose. If the care-giver of the abused child lacks these qualities, the chances are very slight that the child will feel 'safe' enough to disclose. This may in turn result in a number of negative consequences, which includes the investigation being withdrawn, the recantation of a disclosure from the child and - most importantly and most concerning - the continuation of the sexual abuse. There may be several reasons for parents not wanting to disclose the sexual abuse of their child, and thus the researcher wants to explore the role of Setswana parents in the disclosure of child sexual abuse.

Unfortunately, no research is available regarding the parents' role in the disclosure or non-disclosure of child sexual abuse within this specific culture. Thus the aim of the research was to describe and explore the perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse: To find out from them what might be the contributing factors, or barriers which may restrict the disclosure of child sexual abuse. This information will aid social workers to empower Setswana parents with knowledge and insight on why they need to disclose child sexual abuse for forensic investigations, and how to prevent the recanting of that disclosure - thus ensuring

the successful prosecution of the alleged perpetrator. The social worker will also be able to structure their interviews in such a way that they can recognize – and overcome - these barriers during their interviews with the alleged sexually abused children. Purposive sampling was conducted among social workers from the Department of Social Development (Tlokwe Service Point) and Setswana parents from two organizations (the other being SAVF).

The results of this research have revealed that Setswana parents still do not have adequate information on what constitutes child sexual abuse. They seem to regard only rape as a form of sexual abuse, and they also do not seem to have knowledge of the fact that boy/girl children can get sexually abused as well. There were also a number of parents who felt that the manner in which female children dress may provoke the sexual abuse. However, none of the parents felt that culture should in any way hinder a child or their parents from reporting sexual abuse. The social workers believe that the Potchefstroom community needs to be made aware of the issues around child sexual abuse. They are of the opinion that more programmes should be implemented in the community, in churches, schools, social clubs and other relevant places.

They also believe that parents should be made aware that it is part of their rights and responsibilities as parents, to report any abuse against their children – and, if they do not adhere to this obligation, that they may also be held liable.

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## OPSOMMING

**Titel:** Persepsies van Setswana ouers met betrekking tot die bekendmaking van seksuele misbruik

**Sleutelwoorde:** *Setswana, ouers, onthulling, kind, seksuele misbruik*

Die navorser beklee 'n betrekking as maatskaplike werker by die Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling by Tlokwe Dienspunt. Die kindersorg en -beskermingsprogram is aanvanklik aan haar toegewys, waarna sy oorgeplaas is na hersteldienste. Tydens haar werksaamhede by die kindersorg en -beskermingsprogram het sy opgelet dat heelwat Setswana kinders wat vermoedelik seksueel misbruik is dit moeilik gevind het om hierdie misbruik bekend te maak. Gedurende onderhoude met hierdie kinders het dit duidelik geword dat hulle ouers en kultuur 'n rol mag speel in hulle besluit om nie die seksuele misbruik bekend te maak nie. Die literatuur toon dat die ouer-kindverhouding 'n betekenisvolle rol speel ten opsigte van bekendmaking van seksuele misbruik. Hierdie verhouding kan 'n kind laat veilig voel, dit kan vertrouwe herbou, en hom of haar sodanig gekoester laat voel dat hy/sy die misbruik kan bekendmaak. Indien die versorger egter nie hierdie gevoelens by die kind wek nie, is daar weinig kans dat die kind 'veilig' genoeg sal voel om misbruik bekend te maak. Op sy beurt mag dit lei tot 'n aantal negatiewe gevolge wat onder meer insluit dat die ondersoek onttrek word, dat die kind sy of haar bekendmaking terugtrek en - die belangrikste en mees kommerwekkende gevolg - dat die misbruik mag voortgaan. Daar is waarskynlik 'n hele aantal redes hoekom ouers nie 'n kind se seksuele misbruik wil bekendmaak nie, en daarom wil die navorser vasstel watter rol Setswana-ouers speel ten opsigte van kinders se bekendmaking van seksuele misbruik.

Daar is ongelukkig geen navorsing beskikbaar ten opsigte van die ouers se rol in die bekendmaking van seksuele misbruik van kinders in hierdie spesifieke kultuur nie. Daarom was die doel van die navorsing om die persepsies van Setswana-ouers ten opsigte van die bekendmaking van seksuele misbruik van kinders te beskryf en te ondersoek. Die onderneming was om by hulle te hoor watter faktore of hindernisse daar mag bestaan wat die bekendmaking van seksuele misbruik van kinders sou

kon beperk. Hierdie inligting sal maatskaplike werkers help om Setswana ouers te bemagtig met kennis en insig oor hoekom hulle die seksuele misbruik van kinders moet bekendmaak vir doeleindes van forensiese ondersoeke, en ook hoe om die onttrekking van sodanige bekendmaking te voorkom sodat die vermeende oortreder suksesvol vervolg kan word. Die maatskaplike werker sal ook dan by magte wees om haar onderhoude so te struktureer dat mense hindernisse kan erken - en oorkom - tydens hierdie onderhoude met vermeende seksueel-misbruikte kinders. Doelmatige steekproewe is onderneem onder maatskaplike werkers van die Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling (Tlokwe Dienspunt) en Setswana ouers van beide organisasies.

Die bevindinge van hierdie navorsing toon dat Setswana ouers steeds nie oor voldoende inligting beskik ten opsigte van wat seksuele misbruik van kinders behels nie. Dit wil voorkom asof hulle slegs verkragting as 'n vorm van seksuele misbruik beskou, en hulle dra skynbaar ook nie kennis van die feit dat seuns ook kan ly onder seksuele misbruik nie. Daar was ook 'n aantal ouers wat gevoel het dat die manier waarop dogtertjies aantrek, seksuele misbruik mag uitlok. Desnieteenstaande het geen van die ouers gevoel dat kultuur op enige wyse in die pad van ouers moet staan om seksuele misbruik aan te meld nie. Die maatskaplike werkers glo dat die Potchefstroom se gemeenskap bewusgemaak moet word van die aangeleenthede wat betrekking het op seksuele misbruik. Hulle voel verder dat meer programme geïmplementeer moet word in die gemeenskap, sowel as in kerke, skole, sosiale klubs en ander relevante omgewings.

Verder glo hulle dat ouers bewus gemaak moet word dat die aanmelding van enige vorm van misbruik teen hulle kinders hul reg en verantwoordelikheid as ouers is - en dat as hulle nie optree en ag slaan op hierdie verpligting nie, hulle ook skuldig gehou kan word.



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## FOREWORD

The article format was chosen in accordance with regulations A.7.2.3 for the degree MA in Social Work: Forensic Practice. The article will comply with the requirements of the journal *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk*.

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# INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AUTHORS

## SOCIAL WORK

The journal publishes articles, brief communications, book reviews and commentary articles already published from the field of Social Work. Contributions may be written in English. All contributions will be critically reviewed by at least two referees on whose advice contributions will be accepted or rejected by the editorial committee. All refereeing is strictly confidential. Manuscripts may be returned to the authors if extensive revision is required or if the style of presentation does not conform to the practice. Commentary on articles already published in the Journal must be submitted with appropriate captions, the name(s) and address(es) of the author(s), preferably not exceeding 5 pages.

The entire manuscript must be submitted, plus one clear copy as well as a diskette with all the text, preferably in MS Word (Word Perfect) or ASSII. Manuscripts must be typed, doubled spaced on the one side of the A4 paper only. Use the Harvard system for references. Short references in the text: When word-for-word quotations, facts or arguments from other sources are cited, the surname(s), year of publication and the page number(s) must appear in parenthesis in the text. More details concerning sources referred to in the text should appear at the end of the manuscript under the caption "References". The sources must be arranged alphabetically according to the surnames of the authors.

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# THE PERCEPTIONS OF SETSWANA PARENTS REGARDING THE DISCLOSURE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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**Keywords:** *Setswana, parents, disclosure, child, sexual abuse*

## INTRODUCTION

The Children's Institute at the University of Cape Town (Berry & Guthrie, 2003:31-32) conducted research for a fact sheet in 2003. It reported that the second most common crime committed against children falls under the category sexual assault - which includes rape, sodomy, indecent assault and other sexual offences. This fact sheet also stated that, in 2000, a total of 25 000 sexual crimes against children were reported in the country. South Africa was indicated to have the highest rate of child rape in the world, and it was estimated that 60 child rapes were reported on a daily basis. Sexual crimes, according to the South African Police Service (SAPS), increased from 64 514 to 66 387 during 2012/2013 (SA 2012/2013). According to the Department of Social Development, more than 50 000 crimes were reported against children during 2011/2012, of which 52% were of a sexual nature, 61% against children younger than 15 years of age, and 29% against children under 10 years. Sexual abuse happens to children of every class, culture, race, religion as well as gender (Meadow *et al.*, 2007:42; Spies, 2006:45).

## 2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

In 2004-2005 alone, the number of reported sexual offences against children in South Africa was an astonishing 22 486 (Reyneke & Kruger, 2006:74). In 2009, Childline reported that they received one million calls relating to children suffering abuse in South Africa (Ncana, 2009:1). Despite these alarming statistics, a report by Solidarity Helping Hand, in June 2009, stated that more than 88% of cases in South Africa were not being reported (Mashaba, 2009:2). Confirming this, Collings *et al.* (2005:282) state that only about 12% of all sexual abuse cases are reported to authorities.

In North West (SA, 2012/2013:54), sexual offences increased during 2012/2013, with 549 more cases in a year in the province. No statistics are available on sexual offences in the Setswana population specifically.

**Table 1: Sexual offences in North West Province**

PROVINCE	2011/2012	2012/2013
NORTH-WEST	4,972	5,521

Police statistics show that 47,6% of the sexual abuse cases reported to the police were referred to court after investigation. However, of those cases referred to court, 45,6% were withdrawn in court, and an additional 4,5% settled out of court. Of the 22 121 reported cases that went to court, only a fifth (19,8%) resulted in the conviction of the accused (SA, 2001). Consequently, in the cases that were not prosecuted, the child could continue to be at risk of continued abuse and other risk factors which may arise from the child's attempt to disclose, thus decreasing the likelihood of the child ever disclosing again (Paine & Hansen, 2002:272). Child sexual abuse, according to The Criminal Law Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act 32 of 2007 (SA, 2007) is defined as any person that engages a child (by definition, a person under the age of 18) in a sexual act without the child's consent. It is very important for the alleged victims of child sexual abuse to be able to disclose the incident themselves. This step is critical in rendering legal and therapeutic intervention (Fouché, 2006:211).



Disclosure, according to Hollely and Müller (2009:125), is “a clinically useful concept to describe the process by which a child who has been abused gradually comes to inform the outside world of his plight”. Unfortunately, lengthy delays caused by children who do not want to disclose the sexual abuse are common. Many investigations - according to the experiences of the researcher as social worker - have been hindered because of the child refusing to disclose, denying that the abuse had ever taken place, or recanting after previously disclosing. These incidents may even lead to the investigation being closed.

Children’s disclosure of sexual abuse is a significant element in initiating intervention to stop the abuse, address its immediate effects, and decrease the likelihood of negative long-term outcomes (Cromer, 2006:1; Goodman-Brown *et al.*, 2003:526; Hershkowitz *et al.*, 2007:113; NSPCC, 2010:1). Many children will become adults who never disclose - or delay disclosing the abuse - because of the difficulty of revealing the secret (Paine & Hansen, 2002:271).

There are many variables, according to Lamb *et al.* (2008:196), Meyers and Milner (2007:2) and Olafson and Lederman (2006:35-36) why children do not want to disclose. Variables may be that children are not willing to share their secret with other people; that there is no maternal or parental support; that they have a good relationship with the perpetrator because of the duration of the sexual abuse; or because they are too young to disclose. Cultural norms and values may affect the likelihood that child sexual abuse will be revealed by an adult or disclosed by a child (Fontes & Plummer, 2010:491). However, understanding these norms and values held by people in a specific culture can help professionals, such as a forensic social worker, to overcome the barriers they experience in disclosing the sexual abuse of a child (Schaeffer *et al.*, 2011:351). One might find that there are certain issues that present differently, or which weigh heavily in various cultures, which may silence disclosures from the victims (Fontes & Plummer, 2010:496).

The definition of child sexual abuse varies from culture to culture. Dawes and Higson-Smith (2005:98) and Ngubane (2010:27) argue that the notion of child sexual abuse depends sometimes on what a specific ethnic group validates as sexual abuse. It is traditional within the African culture that children are expected to adhere to the cultural beliefs and norms of the society. The implications of these beliefs are

that even though the Children's Act expands on existing human rights and norms, and focuses exclusively on children and their rights, some cultures still view it as a radical notion that violates the African culture and tradition (Shumba & Moorad, 2000:173). Child sexual abuse in the Setswana culture, according to Malimaba-Ramagoshi *et al.* (2007:445), “often results from the belief of ‘ownership of the other’”. Parents and society in general often regard children as their property in the same way that many men believe they 'own' women.” This is reflected in the Setswana saying *Logong lo ojwa lo sa le metsi*, which justifies the disciplining of children through physical punishment or deprivation. This is mostly done in the knowledge that they (the children) will not fight back or defend themselves. Thus, children who are being physically or sexually abused - or whose rights are being denied by their parents (or guardians/relatives) - are not entitled to seek assistance from the courts or *Lekgotla* (traditional court), and are usually left powerless, not knowing where to go for help. The results of the above-mentioned are that many children who are physically or sexually abused will go unheard, unassisted and unprotected (Fontes, 2008:136-139).

The decision to disclose or report child sexual abuse is not a solitary, individual decision. The influence of the parents, and their reactions towards the child, play a significant role in the child deciding whether he or she is going to disclose or continue giving the parents any further information (NCTSN, 2009:2; Plummer, 2006:2; Yancey & Hansen, 2010:415). One of the reasons children disclosed the sexual abuse so late, or not at all, was based on the attitude of their parents. Some children reported that they do not disclose out of fear of their parents' reaction (Schaeffer *et al.*, 2011:344).

This being the case, the question this research paper aims to pursue, is:

***What are the perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse?***

### **3. AIM OF THE RESEARCH**

The aim of the research was to describe and explore the perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse.

#### **4. CENTRAL THEORETICAL ARGUMENT**

More information on the perceptions of Setswana parents, in order to understand the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse, can assist social workers to empower Setswana parents with knowledge and insight on why they need to disclose child sexual abuse for forensic investigations; and on how to prevent the recanting of that disclosure and thus ensure the successful prosecution of the alleged perpetrator.

#### **5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Fouché and Schurink (2011:323) define research methodology as a process that involves the application of a variety of standardized methods and techniques in the pursuit of knowledge. This research was centered on a qualitative methodological approach.

##### **5.1 Literature Review**

Literature review demonstrates to the expert reader that the researcher is aware of the breadth and diversity of literature that relates to the research question. It is important that the author is able to provide an integrated overview of his field of study. This means that they show awareness of the most important and relevant theories, models, studies and methodologies. According to Fouché and Delport (2011:134), the preliminary reading on the proposed topic is also important to provide the researcher with the necessary knowledge on the proposed research topic. Thus the researcher should read articles and books on concepts such as child sexual abuse, the disclosure process of sexual abuse, and factors influencing Setswana parents that may contribute to whether the child discloses or not. Very few sources could be found on the subjects listed above. It appears that no research has ever been conducted on the perceptions of Setswana parents as it pertains to the disclosure of child sexual abuse. Sources such as articles, Acts (that is, legislation), the internet, scholarly books, research reports and dissertations were consulted for this study.

Databases that were consulted include the following: EBSCO Host Web, South African and International Journals and Books, Google Scholar, SAGE publications and Science Direct.

## 5.2 Research Design

Grinnell (2001:231) defines research design as a plan which includes every aspect of a proposed research study, from conceptualization of the problem to the dissemination of findings. Research design is a plan, or a blue print, of how one intends to conduct research (Babbie & Mouton, 2001:647).

The interpretive descriptive design model was used to explore and describe the perceptions of Setswana parents in the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse (St George, 2010:1624). Interpretive practice engages both the how and what of social reality (St George, 2010:1626). According to Botma *et al.* (2010:110), descriptive designs are used when little is known about a topic. The objective of the interpretive descriptive design was to strive to describe or interpret the phenomenon of child sexual abuse disclosure within the Setswana culture (Fouché & Schurink, 2011:321).

The research had an exploratory objective. Exploratory research was conducted to gain insight into this under-investigated field. Exploratory research often relies on qualitative approaches such as interviews, which was the data gathering technique for this study.

## 5.3 Research context

South African Crime Statistics indicate that in North West province sexual offences increased during 2012/2013, with 549 more cases in a year, which shows the seriousness of sexual offences in the province(SA, 2012/2013:54). No statistics are available on the experience of specifically the Setswana population.

**Table 2: Sexual offences in North West province**

PROVINCE	2011/2012	2012/2013
NORTH-WEST	4,972	5,521

The research was done in Potchefstroom, an academic city in North West province, South Africa. It is the site of the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University. According to the Tlokwe City Council Draft 2011 (2011:35-37)

Potchefstroom covers an area of approximately 2500 square km and is divided into two parts by the N12 route between Johannesburg and Cape Town.

The population comprises:

Black African: 86 482

White: 33 690

Coloured: 3 705

Indian or Asian: 473

Most of the Black African people in the Potchefstroom area speak Setswana.

## **5.4 Research Methodology**

The researcher pursued a qualitative research methodology approach. The qualitative approach is used to answer questions about the phenomena with the purpose of describing and understanding the phenomena from the participant's perspective (Leedy & Ormrod, 2005:94-95).

### **5.4.1 Participants**

The researcher utilised the purposive sampling technique. All the participants were selected on the basis of their knowledge and experience of the topic and the perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse (Strydom & Delport, 2011:392). The selected participants were sourced from the databases of the Department of Social Development (a government department) and the NGO SAVF Family Care (or Suid Afrikaanse Vroue Federasie Gesinsorg). The participants consisted of two groups:

#### **Group 1: Setswana parents**

The Department of Social Development and SAVF Family Care in Potchefstroom connected the researcher with Setswana parents who attended parenting programmes. These were parents who had knowledge regarding the perceptions of Setswana parents pertaining to the disclosure of child sexual abuse, and who were all in the Potchefstroom area. The focus was on Setswana parents residing in and around Potchefstroom, which includes the Ikageng area and the extensions around Ikageng.

## **Group 2: Social workers**

Social workers from the Department of Social Development as well as SAVF Family Care in Potchefstroom were included in the research because they were in touch with Setswana parents who at first did not want to disclose the sexual abuse of their child, but later did disclose the sexual abuse. These social workers were able to give an objective view about the perceptions of Setswana parents who did not want to disclose the sexual abuse, because they had counselled them. Only five social workers were willing to give informed written consent.

**The criteria for selecting participants were as follows:**

### **Group 1: Setswana Parents**

- Setswana parents, residing in the Ikageng area and the extensions around Ikageng in Potchefstroom.
- Setswana parents who attend or attended parenting or empowerment programmes run by social workers in the Department of Social Development or SAVF Family Care, and who had knowledge on the perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of sexual abuse. Setswana parents that could speak and understand English or Setswana.
- Setswana parents who gave written consent to be part of the research, and who also gave informed written consent that the interview can be tape recorded were part of the research.

### **Group 2: Social workers**

- Social workers of the Department of Social Development or SAVF Family Care in Potchefstroom who had worked with Setswana parents who at first did not want to disclose the sexual abuse of their child, but later did. These social workers, as a result of their services, had some insight into why Setswana parents did at first not want to disclose the sexual abuse of their child..
- Social workers who could speak English.
- Social workers who gave informed written consent to be part of the research.
- Social workers who gave informed written consent that the interview could be tape recorded.

#### 5.4.2 Data collection

For the purposes of this study, a qualitative approach was utilized. The researcher used semi-structured one-to-one interviews (Greeff, 2011:351). Semi-structured one-to-one interviews were used in order to gain a picture of the Setswana parent's beliefs and their perceptions of child sexual abuse disclosure. The aim of semi-structured interviews in this study was to gain a detailed picture of the perceptions of Setswana-speaking parents as well as the perceptions of social workers regarding the disclosure of child sexual within Potchefstroom area until data saturation.

With regard to the semi-structured interviews of the parents, the researcher had a set of five open-ended questions on an interview schedule, and four for the social workers. **(Annexures 7 and 8)** The interview schedule was evaluated by experts in the Social Work Division of North-West University's Potchefstroom Campus to ensure quality control -and also evaluated with the help of three Setswana parents who were not research participants, to determine the clarity of the questions. After the schedule had been evaluated, the necessary adjustments were made to the schedule. The language used in the interview schedule for parents was in English as well as Setswana. Translations of the interview schedule, from English to Setswana, were done by a qualified translator.

Audiotape recordings were made during the interviews, with consent granted by both the parents and the social workers. The focal task of the audiotape recording, according to Monette *et al.* (2005:79) was to record the responses of the participants. Rubin and Babbie (2005:457) and Greeff (2005:234; 298) are of the opinion that a tape recorder is a powerful tool, as it allows the interviewer to keep full attention focused on the participant while also not missing any information provided by the participant. All the audiotape recordings were translated from Setswana to English by a translator who signed a confidentiality agreement, and was assisted by the researcher. Only two participant parents could not do the interviews in English. The researcher also made field notes after each interview in English as recommended by experts (Greeff, 2011:373).

### 5.4.3 Research procedures

The researcher pursued the following procedures in the study:

#### **Group 1: Setswana parents**

- The researcher wrote a letter to the Managers of the Department of Social Development (Tlokwe Service Point) and SAVF Family Care in Pretoria requesting permission to do the research and explaining the aim of the research.
- The researcher requested permission to contact the social workers who would be mediators and assist in providing names of Setswana parents who attended empowerment programmes in the Ikageng area and the extensions around Ikageng in Potchefstroom.
- The social workers then contacted the parents to discuss the aim of the research and enquired whether they were interested in being part of the research. The social workers then introduced the parents to the researcher.
- Once the participants had been identified, appointments were scheduled with the parents where they were all informed about the research project. They were given information regarding the aim of the study and the benefits and risks of taking part, as well as the ethical issues. This ensured that the participants made an informed choice on whether to continue taking part, or not.
- The parents were given enough time (five days) to read the consent form before they decided to take part in the study.
- The participants' informed written consent, to take part in the research as well as for the interviews to be audio recorded, was granted before the interviews started. **(Annexure 4)**
- The researcher, together with the social workers, arranged convenient dates, times and venues for the interviews with each of the participants, individually.
- The researcher conducted the semi-structured interviews with parents introduced by SAVF in a social worker's office where privacy could be assured. Interviews with parents from the Department of Social Development were conducted in the office of the researcher where confidentiality could be assured.
- After each interview, the researcher wrote a detailed report.
- All audio recorded interviews were transcribed by a research assistant who signed a confidentiality agreement. All audio tape recordings were destroyed



after transcription.

- The reports and audio recorded tapes were stored in a locked cabinet in the researcher's office, and data on the researcher's computer was password protected.

## **Group 2: Social workers**

- The researcher wrote a letter addressed to the Managers respectively of the Department of Social Development (Tlokwe Service Point) and SAVF Family Care in Pretoria, requesting permission to do the research and explaining the aim of the research. Permission was requested for the inclusion of social workers who had experience in Setswana parents' disclosure in child sexual abuse, as well as the provision of social workers' details. **(Annexures 2 and 3).**
- Once the participants had been identified, appointments were scheduled with the social workers, and they were informed by the researcher regarding the aim of the study and the benefits and risks of taking part, as well as the ethical issues raised by the research. This ensured that the participants made an informed choice on whether or not to continue taking part.
- The social workers were given enough time (a week) to read the consent form before they decided to take part in the study.
- Written permission of the participants to take part in the research, as well as for the interviews to be audio recorded, was granted before the interviews started. **(Annexure 5).**
- The researcher arranged convenient dates, times and venues for the interviews with the social workers. The interviews took place in the social workers' offices.
- The researcher wrote detailed reports after each interview.
- The audio recorded interviews were transcribed by a research assistant who signed an agreement of confidentiality. All audio tape recordings were destroyed after transcribing the interviews.
- The reports and transcribed interviews were stored in a locked cabinet in the researcher's office, and data on the researcher's computer were password protected.

#### 5.4.4 Data Analysis

According to Neuman (2006:459) a researcher's focus in a qualitative data analysis is to "organize specific details into a coherent picture". The analysis of data by the researcher must represent the real experiences of the participants concerned. While analyzing the data, the researcher considered the following: the words, context, and frequency of comments; specificity of comments; what was said and what was not said; as well as striving to ascertain the main idea (Greeff, 2011:373). The researcher ensured that all the audio tape recordings were transcribed (Botma, 2010:220). The qualitative data was analysed by hand.

- Botma *et al.* 2010:213) and Schurink *et al.* (2011:402) identified the following guidelines when analysing data and the research project adhered to these, viz:
- The initial research was kept in mind.
- All voice data was transcribed.
- The correctness of transcripts was ensured by an external person who transcribed the data, and the researcher verified the correctness.
- Topics were coded.
- During transcription, enough space was left on both the left and right margins to allow the researcher to make notes during analysis.
- The processing and interpretation of the qualitative data was done by hand, and themes and sub-themes were identified.
- When translation was needed, an external person verified the information.

The researcher requested a social worker, who acted as external co-coder, to ensure the accuracy of the data, and to also verify the correctness by listening to the recorded data and working through the reports as stated in Botma *et al.* (2010:224; 232). The co-coder signed a confidentiality agreement. **(Annexure 6)** The researcher determined the accuracy of the findings with the participants by discussing the data received from them (that is, member checking). This was done by means of a follow-up interview with each participant, in private to ensure confidentiality (Botma *et al.*, 2010:231).

## **5.5 Ethical aspects**

Ethics relates to moral standards that the researcher should uphold at all stages of the research. Research ethics are developed to protect participants of research from abuse by researchers (Bless *et al.*, 2006:140). Written permission number NWU-0027-09-A1 was obtained from The Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of the Faculty of Health Sciences of North-West University to conduct the research as part of an umbrella project. **(Annexure 1)**. The ethical aspects pertaining to this study included, amongst others, informed consent, confidentiality, and avoidance of harm to respondents.

### **5.5.1 Informed written consent**

Prior to the participants granting the researcher informed consent, they were told about the procedures that would be followed during the research. Participants were aware of the advantages and disadvantages and dangers to which they may be exposed during the study (Strydom, 2011:117; Monette *et al.*, 2005:53). A preface outlining the research, its voluntary nature and statement of confidentiality was included on the consent forms of the participants (Babbie & Mouton, 2001:521; Creswell, 2003:64). These forms entailed a statement of confidentiality, privacy and anonymity. A written consent form was thereafter obtained. Only the social workers and the Setswana parents who agreed with the statements, and who gave written consent, were included in this research. The participants were also informed that they may freely participate in the study and that they were able to withdraw from research anytime without any consequences (Butz, 2008:249). Prior to obtaining informed consent, the researcher explained to the Setswana-speaking parents that, should a participant disclose sexual abuse of a child, the disclosure would be reported to the social worker for further investigation.

### **5.5.2 Confidentiality**

Due to the sensitive nature of the subject of this research, the social workers as well as the Setswana parents were assured of confidentiality and also that no identifying particulars such as names would be used in the research report. The interviews were in the office of each social worker, and with the parents in the offices of the social workers where confidentiality could be assured. All completed interview schedules

were kept safely stored in a locked cabinet in the researcher's office (Babbie & Mouton, 2001:523). All audio tape recordings were destroyed. The researcher allocated a number in advance, such as participant 1, 2, etcetera, to maintain confidentiality, instead of using the participants' real names.

### **5.5.3 Avoidance of harm**

The researcher made an undertaking to treat all participants with respect during the interview in order to avoid emotional harm. Participants in social research, according to Strydom (2011:115), can be harmed either physically and/or emotionally. One can accept that harm to respondents in social research will mainly be of an emotional nature. During data collection that was by means of an interview, the researcher was very attentive to whether any of the participants experienced any harm of an emotional nature when answering the questions. The researcher explained to the participants that another therapist, such as a social worker, may be contacted should the participant require more counselling after participation in the study. No participant experienced any harm.

### **5.5.4 Debriefing**

If respondents, especially in qualitative research, are affected by problems generated by the research experience, debriefing sessions will be arranged to work through their experiences and its aftermath in order to handle their feelings, answer their questions and remove misconceptions (Babbie, 2001:475). Strydom (2011:122) emphasises that subjects should never be exposed to situations likely to cause any harm. The researcher always keeps in mind that, should there be any secondary trauma experienced by any of the participants, they would be given the opportunity to work through their secondary trauma by means of debriefing sessions by an appropriate therapist - such as another social worker, who would render counselling services free of charge (Bless *et al*; 2006:143; Strydom, 2011:122). The researcher was prepared to clarify, at any point, possible misunderstandings regarding the information received from respondents, but it was not necessary. No debriefing was required.

### **5.5.5 Benefits and risks**

Indirect benefits for the participants in this study were that both the Setswana parents and the participating social workers were given knowledge on how to prevent the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse in the Potchefstroom area or, more specifically, in the Setswana culture. Benefits for the community may be that more cases would be reported, meaning that the alleged perpetrators would no longer be able to commit those crimes in secret after an intervention with the child.

Knowledge attained from this research project would assist social service professionals in, firstly, creating more awareness around the community about hindrances in the disclosure of child sexual abuse and, secondly, in developing empowerment programmes or groups for children and caregivers to enhance their knowledge and skills in how to prevent the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse.

The Setswana participants would also gain more knowledge as to whether there are any cultural practices, beliefs or values that hinder their children from disclosing child sexual abuse. This knowledge might also contribute to an increase in the successful prosecution of alleged perpetrators.

Risk, according to Botma *et al.* (2010:22), "equates to harm or injury and implies it is something detrimental that may occur in the future". Participants could experience emotional discomfort as a result of discussions of the sexual abuse of a child. Every participant was given the opportunity to work through their embarrassment or trauma by means of debriefing sessions which would be carried out by an appropriate therapist, such as another social worker (Bless *et al.*, 2006:143; Strydom, 2011c:122). No participant experienced any embarrassment. The researcher clarified any possible misunderstandings of the information received from participants after each interview (Botma *et al.*, 2010:22).

### **5.5.6 Release and publication of the findings**

Managers from the respective organisations (SAVF Family Care and the Department of Social Development) will be informed, via a report, on the outcome of the research study. The managers will inform the area managers in their organisation regarding the results of the study, who will then inform the participants. However, the researcher will make sure that she does not divulge essential information which

might hinder the confidentiality of participants. The findings of the study will also be introduced to the reading public in written form, by means of a dissertation as well as an article in an accredited journal.

## 6. TRUSTWORTHINESS

According to Botma *et al.* (2010:232), trustworthiness has four epistemological standards, namely truth value, applicability, consistency and neutrality. Truth value, applicability, consistency and neutrality were used as criteria to assess the value of findings and to ensure trustworthiness (Botma *et al.*, 2010:234).

**Table3: Standards, strategies and applied criteria to ensure trustworthiness**

Epistemological standards	Strategies	Application
Truth Value	Credibility	Credibility refers to internal validity. The researcher must have confidence in the truth of the findings with regards to the participants, as well as the context in which the research was undertaken. For the purpose of the study, the researcher ensured credibility through prolonged engagement, member checking and peer examination (Botma <i>et al.</i> , 2010:233; Shenton, 2004:64).
Consistency	Dependability	Dependability refers to the replication of the study in the same context. By making use of the same methods and with the same participants, the findings will stay consistent (Botma <i>et al.</i> , 2010:233).  To enable dependability the researcher included the following:  Dependable audit: the researcher provided a detailed account on how data was collected.  Description of the methodology: the researcher included in the research design what was planned and executed during the study.

		<p>The researcher ensured that data was correctly coded.</p> <p>Peer examination of the study was done (Botma <i>et al.</i>, 2010:233; Shenton, 2004:64).</p>
Applicability	Transferability	<p>Transferability is determined by the degree that findings can be generalized to the larger population. The findings in regard to this qualitative study were specific to a small number of individuals in the Potchefstroom area. The researcher improved transferability by the selection of resources and sampling, saturation of data, and the detailed description of the data (Botma <i>et al.</i>, 2010:233; Shenton, 2004:64).</p>
Neutrality	Conformability	<p>Conformability entails that the research process and results are free from prejudice. The researcher ensured that, as far as possible, the study's results are objective and are not based upon the biases, motives and perspectives of the researcher. For the purpose of the study, conformability was in making field notes available for auditing (Botma <i>et al.</i>, 2010:233; Shenton, 2004:64).</p>

## 7. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The researcher was unable to commence with the data collection at the scheduled time, due to the fact that social workers from the Department of Social Development took longer than expected to submit their written consent.
- The researcher also experienced some difficulty in securing an appointment with some of the social workers from the Department of Social Development as they had to attend to other engagements such as workshops and meetings.
- The social workers also took longer than expected in identifying Setswana parents who could participate in the study.
- During the interviews at Department of Social Development, the researcher experienced minor interruptions such as the telephone ringing. However, the

researcher unplugged the phone and also put up notifications that sessions were taking place in the office in order to avoid interruptions.

## **8. DEFINITION OF TERMINOLOGY**

### **8.1 Child**

The Children's Act 38 of 2005 (SA, 2005) defines a child as any person under the age of 18 years. The New Dictionary of Social Work (1995:8), also defines a child as a person under the age of 18 years.

### **8.2 Parent**

Free Online Dictionary (2013:1) defines a parent as one who begets, gives birth to or nurtures and raises a child, a father or a mother. The Children's Act No 38 of 2005 defines a parent in relation to a child, and includes the adoptive parent of a child, but excludes:

- the biological father of a child conceived through the rape of, or incest, with the child's mother,
- any person who is biologically related to a child by reason only of being a gamete donor for purposes of artificial fertilization, and
- a parent whose parental responsibilities and rights in respect of a child have been terminated.

### **8.3 Disclosure**

Disclosure according to Hollely and Müller (2009:125) is "a clinically useful concept to describe the process by which a child who has been abused gradually comes to inform the outside world of his plight". Lamb *et al.* (2008:203) define disclosure as a "clinically useful concept to describe the process by which a child who has been abused gradually comes to inform the outside world of his plight".

### **8.4 Sexual Abuse**

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007 (SA, 2007) defines child sexual abuse as assault of a child, or allowing a child to be sexually abused or assaulted and encouraging, inducing or forcing a child to be



used for the sexual gratification of another person. Procuring, or allowing a child to be procured for commercial sexual exploitation, or in any way participating or assisting in the commercial sexual exploitation of a child. Using a child in or deliberately exposing a child to sexual activities or pornography.

## **8.5 Perceptions**

The Longman Dictionary (2009:1289) defines perception as the way someone thinks about something and his/her idea of what it is like.

## **9. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

The following discussions of results are based on categories of main themes and sub-themes that emerged from the data. The main aim of the research was to explore the perceptions that Setswana parents have on the disclosure of child sexual abuse. The participants who formed part of the study and who shared their perceptions regarding this matter were six (6) Setswana parents and five (5) social workers. For reasons of confidentiality, the researcher allocated a number to the social workers, and alphabetic letters to the parents. Social workers are indicated in the research as participants 01-05, while the parents were indicated as participants A-F.

An in-depth interview schedule was utilized during the interviews with all the participants, to collect the data. The following results of the interviews with the Setswana parents will be discussed:

### **9.1 Research results of Setswana parents**

#### **9.1.1 Profile of Setswana parents**

##### **9.1.1.1 Age and gender of Setswana parents**

**Table 4: Age and Gender**

<b>Participant Letter</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Parent A	Above 60	Female
Parent B	Above 60	Female
Parent C	Above 60	Female

Parent D	31-40	Female
Parent E	50-60	Female
Parent F	50-60	Female

The above table indicates that there were a total of 6 Setswana parents who took part in the research study. The Setswana parents were all females, three were above the age of 60, one was between 31-40 years, and the last two were between 50-60 years. The ages of the parents were thus between 30 and 60 years of age which indicated a good distribution of ages and experiences as parents.

## 9.2 Themes and sub-themes

Semi-structured interviews were used, guided by an interview schedule. After the completion of the interviews, the researcher identified **five** main themes, and all of the themes have their own sub-themes. The themes and sub-themes can be summarized as follows:

**Table 5: Themes and Sub-themes**

THEME NUMBER	THEME NAME	SUB-THEMES
1	Perceptions of child sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rape/engaging in sexual relations with a minor who is not yet of consenting age</li> <li>• Rape by neighbours</li> </ul>
2	Factors that may contribute to child sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern dress code</li> <li>• Relationship with an older men</li> </ul>
3	Perceptions of parents regarding disclosure of sexual abuse by children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosing of sexual abuse by children is important</li> <li>• Disclosure is essential in the healing process</li> <li>• Trauma experienced</li> </ul>
4	Factors which may influence disclosure of child sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boundaries set by culture</li> <li>• Fear of perpetrator</li> <li>• Parental support</li> <li>• Disbelieve the child</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio economic status</li> <li>• Stigma/labelling from society</li> </ul>
5	<p>Setswana parents' role in assisting children to disclose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure counselling</li> <li>• Assure safety of the child</li> <li>• Open communication</li> </ul>

### 9.3 Theme 1: perceptions of child sexual abuse

The researcher asked the participants, what is their understanding regarding sexual abuse? It became apparent that the parents, Setswana speaking people, were more familiar with child sexual abuse only in the form of rape. Only one participant gave an answer that was different from the other participants. She mentioned that child sexual abuse is to engage in a sexual relationship with a minor who is not yet of consenting age. The following were the responses that the participants gave:

*“It is abuse of a sexual nature, such as rape. Being raped perhaps by the man next door or boys in the streets”. (Participant D)*

*“Actually, let me say that I do not understand it”. (Participant C)*

*Child sexual abuse is to victimize children on the issue of forceful sex. As I see (it), it is rape by neighbours. You know for me as parent rape is a sin and it affects everyone in the family. (Participant F)*

The participants' perceptions regarding child sexual abuse are vague. From these answers it was obvious that the parents have a different knowledge base regarding the meaning of sexual abuse. All the participants used the word rape to describe sexual abuse, and they see other people (not family members) as the perpetrators. A lack of knowledge places children in these homes at risk of being sexually abused especially by family members because they do not get the correct knowledge from their parents. From the answers received the participants do not really realized that people near them can be the perpetrator such as the father, uncle or grandfather. They think it is people like the neighbor or the boy/man in the street.

According to Sanderson (2005:12), parents need to educate themselves about child sexual abuse if they want to keep their child safe. According to Ngubane (2010:27), sexual abuse of a child depends sometimes on what an ethnic group understands as sexual abuse. Perspectives and meanings vary from one ethnic group to another. Perceptions set guidelines that individuals inherit as a member of a particular society and that informs them how to experience and interpret their world – which is true also regarding sexual abuse (Dawes & Higson-Smith, 2005:98; Ncanywa, 2014:32). Educating children about sexual abuse and rape, according to Nqaphi (2013:26) will

help children to protect themselves against any form of sexual abuse. According to Nqaphi (2013:26) it has been revealed that in most cases children are being informed about sexual abuse after they were already being sexually abused.

#### **9.4 Theme 2: Factors that may contribute to sexual abuse**

When discussing what sexual abuse means, the participants started discussing the factors which may cause sexual abuse. Two of the participants put great emphasis on the behaviour of the child. They were of the opinion that the children may also play a role in encouraging the sexual abuse.

##### **9.4.1 Sub-theme 1: Modern dress code**

There seems to be an emphasis on the things children do to encourage sexual abuse and the censure is not placed on men. Participant B felt that the way girls are dressing nowadays might be sending the wrong message to men. She emphasized that short dresses are tempting the men to approach them, and that girls end up engaging in sexual relations with them.

*“The problem is how these girls of today are dressing. They don’t dress appropriately, even at school. They make it worse by how they dress.”*  
**(Participant B)**

Even though only two participants alluded to the issue of the relationship- be it romantic or otherwise - with the perpetrator as an influential factor, it does seem to have an influence on non-disclosure of child sexual abuse. The researchers’ findings correlate with those from the study conducted by Madu (2001:09) in the Northern Province of South Africa on sexual abuse and victim-perpetrator relationships. He recognized that the child’s relationship to the perpetrator can affect their decision to either disclose or hide the sexual abuse.

##### **9.4.2 Sub-theme 2: Relationship with an older men**

There is a perception among some of the participants that the youth are less modest around older men, in terms of what they wear and their actions. This in turn attracts older men who can provide them with material things. The men use the promise of money or material things to get the co-operation of the minors.

*"I can't say what are the reasons because personally I would not allow such a thing. You see, it is mostly when a man (is) married to a woman with children. Stepfathers are the ones who would do this and not an actual father". (Participant A)*

*"I don't know how I'd put it. You know what, if only these children behaved themselves. It's not that I am taking the side of the men. It's just that our grandchildren don't know how to carry themselves. They are not like you guys. You see children dating an old man or holding him. And it happens; you hear it on the radio that a child has had a child with her own father while her mother is living there with them in the house. If I was the mom that would never happened. I would have had him arrested". (Participant E)*

*"Today's children love money, they drink alcohol and they are afraid of education. The thing with education is that it can't work unless you (are) completely dedicated to it. You can't be distracted. So when they have to study, they are more focused on alcohol and grown men who give them money. Even if it is her father, she will keep quiet". (Participant A)*

#### **9.4.3 Sub-theme 3: Poverty**

Poverty contributes enormously to the sexual abuse of children. According to Coleman and Hagell (2007:11), poverty is certainly a factor that leads to increased vulnerability to sexual abuse of children; yet wealth may not necessarily lead to a positive outcome either. "Many children support their families, pay their school fees, and have their uniforms and books supplied by means of sexual favours." (Van Niekerk, 2006:103). According to Evian (2006:21), young girls may sell sex to older men just to earn money to survive.

Two of the participants interviewed, mentioned grooming as one of the causes of sexual abuse. Some perpetrators, according to this participant, take advantage of the circumstances of these children, use money and lavish lifestyles to attract them, and end up abusing them sexually.

*"Or they will tell them that if they do not disclose they will give them money and put them through school". (Participant B)*

*“At times men, mostly older men with money, ask children to help them with tasks - house cleaning or in the garden - and then pay them or bribe with sweets only to have sex with them later on”. (Participant F)*

The perpetrator in grooming is usually an adult, for example an uncle, stepfather, or grandfather, who at first appears to be “friendly, trustworthy and non-threatening, and the child experiences a degree of favouritism” (Fouché and Yssel, 2006:249). Grooming or bribing, according to Gogela (2013:23), of the child by the perpetrator happens when the perpetrator gives gifts they know the child likes or which the caregivers are not able to buy. Ncanywa (2014:41) in her research concluded that grooming can be defined as the actions of the perpetrator deliberately aimed at establishing an emotional connection and trust with the child, in order to increase the likelihood of the child engaging in sexual behaviour.

### **9.5 Theme 3: Perceptions of parents regarding disclosure of sexual abuse by children**

A central issue in child sexual abuse is the need for disclosure. Victims of sexual abuse are not always willing to disclose and, according to De Voe and Faller (2002:6), many children find it difficult to talk about their experiences of being sexually abused; and therefore the parents’ reactions or anticipations are likely to affect the child’s willingness to disclose. The researcher asked the parents what their perceptions are regarding children telling others that they have been sexually abused?

#### **9.5.1 Sub theme 1: Disclosing of sexual abuse by children is important**

The reactions of the parents regarding the importance of children disclosing their sexual abuse were:

*“It is important because she might fall pregnant with that man’s child.”*  
**(Participants A)**

*“It is important because when they don’t disclose it will end up traumatizing them.”* **(Participant B)**

*“They have to speak up. They have to say so and so want to do this to me or has already done this to me. Then I would have to go to the alleged*

*perpetrator's home and report what the child has disclosed, and ask his family what they have to say about the matter because it is not right.”*  
**(Participant C)**

*“I would say it is the mothers’ reaction. When a child approaches a mom to tell her something and she gets yelled at, she will never reveal the truth because of fear.”* **(Participant D)**

*“I think a child must disclose. Parents must just encourage them to disclose because if they (do) not, it will end up bothering them and even affect their school work.”***(Participant E)**

*“The parents or families who know this need to be supportive to the child and must gain trust of the child until the child feels free to disclose information about sexual abuse that happened to them. That will help parents to take the matter up to the police for help”.* **(Participant F)**

It was obvious from these comments that all these mothers thought that a child has to disclose the sexual abuse. Parents play a very important role, not only in recognizing the sexual abuse of the child but also in encouraging reporting the abuse (Rapholo, 2014:2; Spies, 2006:274). Several studies point out that the support of the parents/caregivers is vital in fighting the problem of child sexual abuse (Ferrara, 2002:213; De Voe & Faller, 2002:6; Rapholo, 2014:29-30).

Maternal support is a strong predictor of children’s disclosure, recovery and healthy development following child sexual abuse disclosures. Literature indicates that child sexual abuse victims who receive high levels of maternal support following their disclosure respond more adaptively to stress, exhibit fewer sexual behaviour problems, display lower internalizing and externalizing symptoms (Bolen & Lamb, 2007) and are less likely to engage in substance abuse (Chen *et al.*, 2004; Hadland *et al.*, 2012), than children who receive inadequate support from their parent(s). Parental support subsequent to child sexual abuse is not only vital for psychosocial development during childhood and adolescence, but has also been associated with interpersonal adjustment in adulthood (Adams & Bukowski, 2007; Liang *et al.*, 2006). Lovett (1995:735) found that children’s uncertainty of their parents’ response may be one of the reasons for recanting or total denial of the abuse.



### **9.5.2 Sub-theme2: Disclosure is essential in the healing process**

There seems to be unanimous agreement among parents that children should come forward and disclose sexual abuse. This needs to be followed up by active steps to ensure children receive appropriate assistance, be it emotionally, legally or physically. Prompt disclosure of child sexual abuse also reduces the likelihood of further victimization and psychological distress. Kogan (2006) also states that disclosure is essential to initiate therapeutic, medical, psychological and protective interventions necessary for the child's healing.

*"Yes, it is important because when they don't disclose it will end up traumatizing them. Many times when these children do not disclose they keep in, all the while wondering what mom will say if they disclose. Will she think she is making it up or not? And also they think about what will happen if the man gets angry and kicks them both out of the house and they have nowhere to go". (Participant B)*

Regarding disclosure of child sexual abuse, Fouché (2006:211) said the following: "In a perfect world, when a child discloses sexual abuse, he or she would be believed, protected and assured that it was not his or her fault. The child would be given counselling and the perpetrator would be taken to task". Unfortunately we do not live in a perfect world and many sexually abused children do not disclose because people do not believe them - in many cases, even their parents/caregivers. In research done by Gogela (2013:20-21) she found that most of the children, according to the participants in the study, are afraid to disclose because they believe that no one will believe that they were sexually abused.

### **9.5.3 Sub-theme3: Trauma experienced**

It is only recently that studies were put in place to examine the effect of additional trauma experienced by the child subsequent to disclosure. According to Mash and Wolfe (2005:411), cited in Fouché and Yssel (2006:246), children's reactions to and recovery from sexual abuse vary depending on the nature of the sexual abuse, responses of others important to them, as well as their relationship with the perpetrator. Secondary trauma associated with a lack of support or inappropriate response of the caretaker and/or the system can have a significant impact on the emotional well-being of the sexually victimized child following their disclosure.

*"It is important because when they don't disclose it will end up traumatizing them".(Participant B)*

*"I think a child must disclose. Parents must just encourage them to disclose because if they (do) not, it will end up bothering them, affect their school work, and traumatize them".(Participant E)*

According to Fouché and Yssel (2006:245), four characteristics regarding trauma of the sexual abuse experiences of the child can be identified, namely:

- Betrayal (aggressive behaviour and mistrust of people close to them).
- Stigmatisation (the shame and guilt arising from the meaning given to the abuse by the child and other people) which may lead to a low self-esteem and destructive behaviour.
- Traumatic sexualisation resulting in sexually reactive behaviour, avoidance of a relationship with the other sex, and confusion about what sex really is.
- Powerlessness. Resulting in behaviours such as nightmares, eating and sleeping problems

## **9.6 Theme 4: Factors which may influence disclosure of child sexual abuse**

Disclosure is a very crucial part in cases of child sexual abuse (Dawes & Higson-Smith, 2005:103; Lamb *et al.*, 2008:198). There are many reasons for sexually abused children's reluctance to disclose. These reasons may be how they have been threatened after disclosing; they may be ashamed or they feel responsible for the abuse (Spies, 2006b:48). It was important for the researcher to explore Setswana-speaking parents' views on factors that may influence the disclosure of the sexual abuse of a child. Therefore the researcher asked the parents what, according to them, might be the reason why Setswana parents would not want to disclose the sexual abuse of a child. The answers will be discussed according to the following sub-themes.

### **9.6.1 Sub theme 1: Boundaries of culture**

There are different levels in the ecological system when considering child sexual abuse, such as the home, family, ethnic culture and social systems like the neighbourhood and school (Fontes, 2005:2-3). Culture, according to Guma and

Henda (2007:98), sets to large extent guidelines that individuals inherit as members of a particular society - and which influence how to experience and interpret their historically constituted world. When dealing with child sexual abuse, it is important to be aware of the role culture plays in the families' lives (Pence, 2011:326-327).

In research done by Gogela (2013:20) in the Eastern Cape Province, and Rapholo (2014:34) in the Polokwane district of the Limpopo Province both concluded that culture plays an important role in why families do not want to disclose the sexual abuse of the child. According to Rapholo (2014:34), the Pedi culture resolves the matter of child sexual abuse within the family - especially if it is inter-familial sexual abuse - as a secret. These findings are in line with what Goodman-Brown *et al.* (2003:20) found, namely that the family is least likely to disclose when the sexual abuse is within the family.

Setswana parents interviewed in this research most of them were of the opinion that more people of the African culture had become modernized and therefore cultural values and norms are no longer as rigid as they were in the past. Therefore culture specifically was said to no longer play such an important role in the disclosure of child sexual abuse. This was according to the Setswana parents in Potchefstroom. One of the reasons why these parents said this can be that they are more educated because they attended the parenting programmes of SAVF or the Department of Social Development. Setswana people that did not attend these programmes may have another view.

*"We as Setswana people, we don't really have a culture. We are a very open culture. So when parents choose not to disclose I think it is more of the mom thinking that this man gives me money so it is in our best interests that I keep quiet about the whole situation. But there are no principles in our culture which prohibit a mother from disclosing".*

**(Participant B)**

*"Not really, because culture is hardly practised anymore. We have to be open so that we can help our children".* **(Participant D)**

*"Okay, the Setswana culture views the disclosure of child sexual abuse more as a shame than not to disclose because of cultural values and as a result, it is kept most of the time as a secret by such families. The matter*

*usually will be dealt (with) by the families because of fear to be known by the community members as they will label the affected families”.*  
**(Participant F)**

### **9.6.2 Sub-theme 2: Fear of perpetrator**

Fear of the perpetrator was acknowledged by many authors such as Kinnear (2007:4) and Spies (2006c:13). Children who experience abuse within the family have greater fears about betraying a parent, or fear punishment or other negative consequences as a result of their disclosure. It is also thought that the more violence is used to coerce the victim, the less likely it is that the child will disclose abuse. Following the principle of secrecy, the perpetrator will tell the child that what he or she is doing is a secret between the two of them. The child, according to Gogela (2013:23) will listen and want to keep the secret because he/she was told by an adult and they listen to adults because the perpetrator said “this is our secret; don’t tell your mother, it will kill her” (Kinnear, 2007:16). The child may also be blackmailed by moral threats not to disclose, as the perpetrator will threaten the child that he/she will be responsible for many bad things such as the disintegration of the family (Spies, 2006c:13).

*“I also want to mention that some of the times you will find the perpetrator is threatening the child with death. He tells the child that should the child disclose he will kill her or kill her parents”* **(Participant B)**

### **9.6.3 Sub- theme 3: Parental support**

Parents of a sexually abused child mostly experience a high degree of emotional pressure, which affects the whole family in some way or another and this, according to (Crosson-Tower, 2005:175-176), may lead to the non-disclosure of the sexual abuse of that child. According to Gogela (2013:24), parents should always offer their sexually- abused children all the support they need. According to Goodyear-Brown (2012:453), the way the child is treated after disclosure of the sexual abuse has a great impact on the level of stigma and how the child feels. Parental response and support is vital in the recovery of the child from sexual abuse. The child’s ability to overcome the consequences of sexual abuse is often associated with the protection and support of others such as the parents (Pollio *et al.*, 2011:267).

*“You should be able to converse with your child. Let them know that they should tell me everything, as your mom, especially if something of this nature has occurred”. (Participant A)*

In research done by Nqaphi (2013:31), Dedel (2010:1) and Friedman (2013:1), they came to the conclusion that the child's home can be one of the most dangerous places where sexual abuse can take place. In addition to the possibility that the child can be sexually abused by the father, stepfather, uncle or grandfather, several studies have linked parental substance abuse to child sexual abuse.

*“I think lack of responsibility from parents. Parents who do not follow up when children reveal things to them and just think that they are lying”. (Participant A)*

According to September (2007:309), in the context of alcohol and drug abuse in a family, children are particularly at risk of being sexually abused. In cases of the economic dependency of the family on the abuser, it could prevent the child or the family from disclosing the sexual abuse.

#### **9.6.4 Sub-theme 4: Do not believe the child**

According to Fouché (2006:211), every child that discloses sexual abuse should be believed - but this is not always the case as children are often not believed after the abuse. In response to a question to the participants why Setswana parents sometimes do not want to disclose the sexual abuse of a child, the answer of one of the parents was:

*“I think lack of responsibility from parents. Parents who do not follow up when children reveal things to them and just think that they are lying”. (Participant A)*

Children who have been sexually abused feel most of the time that their support is significantly reduced when he or she is not believed or is blamed by the non-offending parent for the sexual abuse. This can have immediate and long-term negative effects on the child and may result in recantation (Gogela, 2013:21). According to research done by the Sanford Health Dakota Advocacy Center (2013) cited in Gogela (2013:21), approximately 23% of children recant their allegations regarding sexual abuse largely as a result of familial-dealt influences, rather than as

a result of false allegations. The researcher agrees with Mabusela (2013:44), in the conclusion of her study, that the most important factor for recanting is the insufficient support from non-offending parents and threats from the alleged perpetrator.

#### **9.6.5 Sub-theme 5: Socio-economic status**

On the question (put to the participants) about the factors that may have an influence on not disclosing the sexual abuse of the child, one participant answered:

*“So when parents choose not to disclose, I think it is more of the mom thinking that this man gives me money so it is in our best interests that I keep quiet about the whole situation”. (Participant B)*

It is well known that many of homes are single-income homes. In most cases it is the women who depend solely on the men or partners for an income. This contributes significantly on the non-offending parent's decision to disclose or not disclose if the perpetrator is also the breadwinner in the household. In addition to being believed and emotionally supported, children who have been sexually abused continue to seek protection from their mothers after disclosure (Heriot, 1996:182).

According to Ferguson (2004:137), a typical profile of children and families, who come to the attention of child protection services experience poverty and other forms of social exclusion. If the non-offending parent is unemployed this may bring about other risk factors such as stress of reduced material resources, a sense of powerlessness in the unemployed parent, or increased parent-child contact. In the same light, maternal employment may contribute to other stressors in the parent-child relationship, and may also have implications on childcare arrangements, or may act as a protective factor through a range of social-psychological benefits.

#### **9.6.6 Sub-theme 6: Stigma/labeling from society**

In Fontes and Plummer (2010:498), the authors discussed how important it is for families in many cultures to not bring shame upon their families, and also how shame or stigma from community members can inhibit disclosures of child sexual abuse. This is of great importance, as shame may also be a strong predictor of post-abuse adjustment. Many aspects of sexual abuse can contribute to feelings of shame: the involvement of the authorities, and the possible perceptions of

neighbours and friends. When asked reasons for not disclosing, all the participants responded that it was because of the stigma.

*“In some cases you will find that the woman is protecting her husband or her husband’s name. Also the shame, the parents are afraid of the shame that such a situation will bring upon the child. People will know about it and use it to hurt the child”.* **(Participant B)**

From the above answers it was obvious that family and social status plays a very important role according to the participants. According to Shetty and Powell (2003:25), they indicate a concern regarding the physical needs of orphaned children. Poverty, malnutrition, stigma, exploitation and sexual abuse, and lack of family support; these are all aspects which children who are in foster care and sexually abused children may be deprived of - and this may result in them suffering recurrent psychological trauma (Van der Westhuizen, 2011:3).

#### **9.7 Theme 5: Setswana parents’ role in assisting children to disclose**

The researcher asked the Setswana parents how do they see their role in assisting their children to tell them that they have been sexually abused?

*“Parents should be able to converse with your child. Let them know that they should tell me everything, as your mom, especially if something of this nature has occurred?”* **(Participant A)**

*“I think you as parent need to take your children and sit with them. Have both parents there and all the children. Let them know that they should tell you once it happens. And also things to protect them, like they should come straight home from school and keep doors locked because it is no longer safe out there”.* **(Participant D)**

**Participant F** gave the following view on the role of Setswana parents and also other role players in the disclosure process:

*“The parents, families, priest and leaders in the community must be mobilized and be educated by people like you about child sexual abuse issues and also about what we must do to disclose and report the sexual abuse of the child and where must we go”.*

**The participants' answers can be summarized as:**

- **Emotional support** - From parents and family as well as the community.
- **Ensure safety post-disclosure** - ensures protection from the perpetrator and secondary victimization.
- **Knowing the warning signs** - changes in behaviour e.g. fear, discharges in young children, sexual knowledge that is beyond their age.
- **Proper supervision at all times for the child** - parents should make sure that they are aware of their children's whereabouts at all times. If they have to attend to errands, then proper arrangements should be made to have another adult supervise them. Children should never be left alone un-supervised.

From the answers received regarding the parents' role in the disclosure process, it was obvious that participants felt that they should always offer support to the child. The way the child is supported after the sexual abuse by people such as the parent has an enormous impact on the child's disclosure of the sexual abuse (Gogela, 2013:25; Olafson & Lederman (2006:35).

## **10. RESEARCH RESULTS OF SOCIAL WORKERS**

One social worker from SAVF Family Care and four (4) social workers from the Department of Social Development were part of the research.

### **10.1 Profile of the social workers**

#### **10.1.1 Age and gender of social workers**

**Table 6: Age and Gender of the social workers**

<b>Respondent Number</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Social worker 1	30-40	Female
Social worker 2	20-30	Female
Social worker 3	20-30	Male
Social worker 4	30-40	Female
Social worker 5	30-40	Female



There were four (4) female social workers and only one (1) male. Two of the social workers were between the ages of 20 – 30, while the other three were between the ages of 30 – 40.

### 10.1.2 Qualification of social workers

**Table 7: Qualification**

<b>Respondent Number</b>	<b>Qualification</b>
Social worker 1	B Social work
Social worker 2	B Social work
Social worker 3	B Social work
Social worker 4	B Social work
Social worker 5	B Social work

All five of the social workers who were participants (100%) have a Degree in social work. None were pursuing a post graduate degree.

### 10.1.3 Experience of social workers

**Table 8: Experience**

<b>Participant number</b>	<b>Years of experience with cases of child sexual abuse</b>
Social worker 1	5-6 years
Social worker 2	1-5 years
Social worker 3	1-5 years
Social worker 4	1-5 years
Social worker 5	5-6 years

According to the information that was provided, all the social workers have experience in working with cases of child sexual abuse.

## 10.2 Themes and sub themes

Semi-structured interviews were used, guided by an interview schedule. After the completion of the interviews the researcher identified four main themes, some of the themes having their own sub-themes. The themes and sub-themes can be summarized as follows:

**Table 9: Themes and Sub-themes**

THEME NUMBER	THEME NAME	SUBTHEMES
1	Perceptions regarding non-disclosure of child sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fear of stigma and alienation</li><li>• Fear of the perpetrator</li><li>• Fear of secondary victimization</li></ul>
2	How can Setswana parents assist in disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sex education for children</li></ul>
3	Reasons why parents do not want to disclose child sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Socio economic status</li><li>• Stigma</li></ul>
4	What can social workers do to minimize non-disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Empowerment through information dissemination</li><li>• Training for social workers</li><li>• Amendment of legislation</li></ul>

## 11. THEME 1: SOCIAL WORKERS' PERCEPTIONS REGARDING DISCLOSURE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The researcher asked the participants what is their perceptions regarding parents' disclosure of the sexual abuse of a child? All the social workers considered fear as the major factor which hinders the disclosure of child sexual abuse from Setswana parents. This fear was described in many forms, such as the fear of secondary victimisation, the fear of being stigmatised by the community, physical fear of the perpetrator, or fear of losing the perpetrator who is also the bread-winner in the house. The responses of social workers were:

### **11.1 Sub-theme 1: Fear of being stigmatized or alienated by the community**

Participant 1, 2 and 3 all mentioned that parents, especially those of the Setswana culture, may be hindered to disclose child sexual abuse because of the fear of being labeled or stigmatized by the community in which they live.

*“But the other thing that I have realized is that mostly the families who want to keep it in the family (is) because they are aware of this having happened over the years. And they don’t want their family member to be exposed. So they rather have it within the house.” (Participant 1)*

*“I think one thing that causes parents not to disclose is the stigma behind it. They do not want to be judged. More especially where the child was sexually assaulted by family. They do not want the community knowing that someone in the family did a certain thing like that and they would rather just solve it in the family.” (Participant 2)*

*“So I think the fear of being alienated as a family “gore” this family has experienced such an event, so it will have a sense of alienation to them.” (Participant 3)*

Social workers in this research have the same views regarding the role stigmatization plays in the disclosure of sexual abuse. According to research done by Gogela (2013:25), she found that parents want to prevent the embarrassment and stigma the allegations of sexual abuse will bring to the family. This was also one of the aspects the researcher found during interviews with the parents; as parent F mentioned that members in the community are very cruel regarding problems such as HIV and child sexual abuse, and this is one of the reasons why they do not want to disclose.

### **11.2 Sub-theme 2: Fear of the perpetrator**

One of the participants pointed out fear of the perpetrator as an influential factor which might affect the disclosure of child sexual abuse. This is how she responded:

*“With cases where an outsider or a neighbour or maybe somebody from outside, an outsider, has sexually abused the child, we find that mostly they are being threatened. Maybe be threatened by the perpetrator*

*himself, the family of the perpetrator “If you tell anyone, I will kill you/ or I will kill your mother” (Participant 1)*

The above-mentioned response correlates with the answers of the parents, and the researcher was able to tell that fear of stigma in the community and fear for the perpetrator really does play a huge role in the parents' decision to disclose or not. The response from this participant is very much in line with the study done by Ferrara (2002:212) where he mentions that the perpetrators may have threatened the child during the sexual abuse. The author is of the opinion that the reluctance of the child to disclose the sexual abuse is in most situations built up from fear of the perpetrator.

### **11.3 Sub-theme 3: Fear of secondary victimization**

Three of the social workers mentioned that fear of being victimized again by the court systems. Their views were captured as such:

*“...some of them would say that they do not trust the police system anymore, or the justice system. Someone is caught today, he goes to jail, and tomorrow the person is back. Or they go through the trial and the case is withdrawn”. (Participant 1)*

*“The other thing, they don't...they are afraid to be key witnesses. To go and be tortured, I'm not sure, questioned in court. (Participant 4)*

*“Fear for the whole forensic process can be another reason. You know how bad it can be for these children to go through the whole process. So people will start with the forensic process but because of their fear for the court proceedings they later recant”. (Participant 5)*

The successful criminal prosecution of a sexual abuse case against a child is very difficult and in countries such as Australia only a small number of reported cases against children result in convictions of the perpetrators (Eastwood *et al.*, 2006:1). This was also reported to be the case in South Africa, according to Eastwood *et al.* (2006:2). According to Loffell (2000:6) problems such as the manner in which cases are managed by the police, the delay of court proceedings, and the absence of coordination between the different role players in these cases, contributes

significantly towards the effectiveness of service delivery towards child sexual abuse cases in South Africa.

The family involved will weigh the potential costs involved in reporting child sexual abuse. These potential costs relate to the likelihood of a successful prosecution and conviction of the abuser; whether they would receive any social or psychological support from child protection organizations protecting them from further abuse; the likelihood of further victimization e.g. secondary victimization at the hands of the offender; the support of significant others; and/or the criminal justice system.

## **12. THEME 2: SETSWANA PARENTS ASSISTANCE IN THE DISCLOSURE PROCESS**

A question was asked to the social workers on how they think parents can assist their children if they have been sexually abused. Of all the participants interviewed, only one social worker (participant 3) alluded to the fact that culture plays a role in non-disclosure. This view is supported by Wickham and West (2002:51) in his study, where he established that the adult worlds of different cultures do not allow children to talk about sex with their elders. As a result, children find themselves confused, as if they live in the two worlds (adult and child).

### **12.1 Sub-theme: Sex education for children**

The answers received from the other participants were:

*“If the parents are more educated about sexual abuse, they can assist the child. Education is very much underdeveloped. Child sexual abuse is not something that the Setswana culture talks about and it is not something that from childhood stage you would learn about it.” (Participant 3)*

*“Parents have to talk about sexual abuse. So I believe that our culture has an influence in terms of disclosure, because if you do not talk to your child about this, the likelihood that you’re wanting your child to come clean about something like this, it is very difficult for you.” (Participant 4)*

*“To disclose is a complicated thing for parents in general and I think more parents should be educated regarding disclosure and how to do it” (Participant 5)*

According to these participants, education of parents on how to help their children as well as themselves to disclose was very important. According to Brooks and Higson-Smith (2007:116), children and adults did not always recognize forms of sexual abuse against children and therefore it is important to educate parents and children regarding child sexual abuse.

### **13. THEME 3: REASONS WHY PARENTS DO NOT WANT TO DISCLOSE**

During this section of the questionnaire, the social workers were requested to provide possible reasons why they think Setswana parents do not want to disclose child sexual abuse. The following responses were provided:

#### **13.1 Sub-theme1: Socio-economic status of family**

Participants one and two mentioned the financial status of the perpetrator or family as another deciding factor which might influence the disclosure of child sexual abuse. The following were their responses:

*“Mostly, it’s because they do not want to lose the man that is the bread-winner” (Participant 1)*

*“And you find that the mother is unemployed, then the father or the uncle who is staying in the household rapes the child, and then if this person is prosecuted and convicted and sentenced, there will not be an income in the house. So, poverty plays a very strong role when it comes to parents not disclosing.” (Participant 2)*

Gwirayi (2012:36) explains that the socioeconomic status of the family, employment, education level, marital relationships, family structure and substance abuse have been reported to be associated with child sexual abuse. In the same article the author quotes Horwitz *et al.* (2001) who in his study suggested that children who had experienced child sexual abuse often grew up with parents who were unemployed. Unemployment may affect risk factors through the stress of reduced material resources, a sense of powerlessness in the unemployed parent, or through increased parent-child contact.

## **13.2 Sub-theme 2: Stigma/ labelling by the community**

*“I think one thing that causes parents not to disclose is the stigma behind it. They do not want to be judged, especially where the child was sexually assaulted by family. They do not want the community knowing that someone in the family did a certain thing like that and they would rather just solve it in the family.” (Participant 2)*

*“The members in the community are very cruel regarding problems such as HIV, child sexual abuse etcetera and therefore parents do not want to disclose”. (Participant 5)*

Stigma plays a very important role why parents and children do not want to disclose child sexual abuse (Faller, 2007:217; Mabusela, 2013:25). Social stigma by the people around the family or the community at large regarding sexual abuse of a child may result in the low self-esteem of the people involved. The fact that many cases of childhood sexual abuse often involve incest creates, according to Dutchevici (2012:1), an even greater aversion to discussing it. Based on the above-mentioned statements by the participants as well as the statements of the parents when they were interviewed, it is clear that fear of being labeled may very well be a crucial factor for the reluctance to disclose child sexual abuse.

## **14. THEME 4: THE SOCIAL WORKER’S ROLE IN IMPROVING DISCLOSURE**

The social workers were requested to provide suggestions or ideas that may be implemented to increase the rate of child sexual abuse disclosure. The following were the responses that they gave:

### **14.1 Sub-theme 1: Empower the community through information dissemination (e.g. advocacy, support groups, parenting skills programmes)**

All the participants that were interviewed thought that the community needed more information regarding this topic. The examples they provided ranged from advocacy programmes, support groups (not only for mothers but fathers as well) and parenting skills programmes.

*“As social workers, I think the best that can happen is support groups. We must have more support groups for those at risk, for those who have been affected, and for those that do not know anything. We need more groups with our children. Because most of the time we find that the parents do not want to talk about these things. And they know some girl that was raped in the school but they never talked to her, they never want to associate with her because it is something like a taboo. It seems like she was asking for it, in some way. But more advocacies with parents, more parenting skills as well for the mothers and the fathers, trying to educate people about the rules and responsibilities - because mothers and fathers sometimes take a back seat when things like these happen”. (Participant 1)*

*“We should emphasize a holistic approach other than just helping the child alone. “Just linking the mother to victim empowerment programmes where the mother can know that the certain project that she can be involved in generating income for the family. Because if you just remove the child, the husband or the father gets sentenced, the mother remains alone still with no income. So if we maybe generate programmes, work on bringing about programmes that will empower the mother such as linking her with ..., linking parents with programmes that will help them generate small businesses within the home, empower them in that sense. Awareness should be raised that this is not only an issue that has to be dealt with by mothers. Men do need to come forth as well. So basically raising awareness is the main thing. Raising awareness in these groups that involve men’s forums and NGOs that involve men, that they should be more aware of their daughters as well, pay more attention to them because sometimes you find that to realize that maybe the child might have been sexually assaulted or sexually abused. (Participant 2)*

*“So I believe as a social worker what I can do is empower the family. I can link them to necessary skills ... eh ... centres, where they can learn new skills to overcome uhm ... this phenomenon. I can also encourage their participation to support the child through the process and also leave the family in a safe (place) in which you didn’t find it. There must be a mark which you have left with the family. Although you might remove the child in*



*the process ... but reunification is a standard point which needs to be looked at as a social worker. So I believe we can help the child to disclose but then the solution is family oriented because we have to unify the child within the circumstances in which you find him or her in, but then the family is central to the solution."* **(Participant 3)**

*"I think aware is through advocacies but to mothers, aunts and everyone staying with a girl child or even a boy child to say when a child takes a bath, just go in and see what is happening. See the body changes and what is happening, and somewhere, somehow, you will see if you are a parent, you will know that something is wrong here. It's just like when my daughter is sick she has a problem with her bladder; I am able to see that something is wrong here because I know her and she is my daughter. I must be aware of the things on her body. The changes, so if the parent knows their child they will be able to see if something happened and once you talk to a child and realize that something is wrong the child will cry obviously, or be shy or something you know? So I think to make them aware is just through advocacy and talk about one thing over and over again. Encourage them to report even if he is not sure, or she, but to ask social workers' intervention before she can take any steps. You know you can't just rush to a police station to report if you are not sure ... seek information or intervention of social worker, talk to a professional someone and say this is what I have realized and I need assistance with one, two and three. So that from there you'll know what to do and where to go."* **(Participant 4)**

The answer of **Participant 5** was:

- *"Support the family so that they have insight in the importance of disclosure.*
- *Support the child and let the child understand that it is not her or his fault or behaviour that leads to the abuse.*
- *Give them enough support during the court proceedings. And for me it is of the utmost importance to start with prevention programmes, especially for your older child. The schools focus mostly on the pre-school child regarding prevention of sexual abuse - and the older child only learns about sex and how to prevent*

*teenage pregnancy. They hardly give attention to sexual abuse and all the danger signs, such as grooming etcetera”.*

The researcher asked this participant whether the empowerment programmes must be on a community or school level, and the answer received from this participant was:

*“It can be both. I think smaller groups rather than larger groups. Cohesion in smaller Groups of 10-15 has more impact than a large group of 25-30 in a group like the classes in school. We have to include the parents too, as well as boys. In social work we really do not give enough time to empower boys and men and that is really a huge problem. We have to give more attention regarding this field. You know we have the University in Potchefstroom, and because of our huge caseloads we can use students such as social work students with a lot of success. Even our auxiliary workers are able to present these programmes. We only need to sit down and evaluate the situation and start planning. We have to take hands as social workers and divide the work between the different welfare organisations. (Participant 5)*

The researcher can share the participants’ sentiment that more parents need capacity building on sexual abuse against children. This will definitely help them to differentiate on what does and does not constitute child sexual abuse and when they need to disclose and report the matter; and also to whom they should report. According to Delport (2010:) and Motshegoa (2011::23), it is crucial that social workers must continue to educate families not to keep child sexual abuse a secret, and also to educate teachers on how to handle abuse cases reported to them. The pre-eminent way to keep children safe is through education about child sexual abuse. If the parents can be educated about child sexual abuse, non-disclosure might be prevented (Sanderson, 2005:12). To be able to educate parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse, the researcher can share the views of participant five (above) regarding the role students and auxiliary workers can play in empowering parents, especially in a community like Potchefstroom.

## 14.2 Sub-theme 2: Training for social workers

Better training for social workers was among some of the participants' recommendations on how to improve disclosure of child sexual abuse. Participant three mentioned that social workers do not have much training in the field of forensic social work, and therefore they do not know how to handle such cases when brought to their attention. He also mentioned that some social workers have a fear of the court system which hinders them from rendering the services needed.

*"Our greatest fear as social workers is the court, and I believe as social workers we must start treating the court as our friend and then uhm ... we should read, we should empower ourselves to do a lot of case conferencing with regards to the findings which were made by the court with regards to sexual offences cases. Then we can learn from the experiences of other social workers that have been through the whole cross- questioning by court processes."* **(Participant 3)**

*"I realize this research is in the forensic social work field and therefore I am really worried about our ability to do forensic assessments. We as social workers do not always cope as expert witness in court regarding sexual abuse cases, and therefore a lot of perpetrators walk around in the community because we did not succeed in the conviction of the perpetrators in some of these cases as social workers. We as social workers really can't afford to pay for M (Masters) studies and I think the Government can support social workers with bursaries to do a Master in Forensic Social Work or a course in this field".* **(Participant 5)**

In the assessment of sexually abused children, social workers need to be equipped with skills which will enable them to do the assessments (Goodyear-Brown, 2012:106). Social workers should always ensure that they create a strong relationship with the child while conducting an assessment (Goodyear-Brown, 2012:128). The social worker needs to be equipped with skills which will enable him/her to convey a warm and interesting relationship with the child through her posture, eye contact, the tone of her voice and general conduct (Goodyear-Brown, 2012:106). Further training on forensic interviewing skills is thus a great need.

### 14.3 Sub-theme 3: Amendment of legislation

Participant number four was of the opinion that there needs to be amendments to legislation; these amendments would ensure that more cases are reported by the parents. *Her comments were:*

*“I think maybe the policies must be amended, that the Act....there are loopholes in all our Acts, especially dealing with cases of children. Even though we think they are taking the side of the child all the time. I think there are still loopholes. So they need to reinforce policies, so that people can know that if you keep quiet it’s an offence.” (Participant 4)*

There is no doubt that South Africa has recently undergone a legislative reform process aimed at providing its children with increased protection and also bringing South Africa’s child policy framework in line with our constitutional and international obligations. Some of the examples of the recent shifts in legislature include the Sexual Offences Act No 32 of 2007, the Children’s Act No 38 of 2005 and the Children’s Amendment Act No 41 of 2007. Due to the complex nature of child sexual abuse, child protection requires an integrated collaborative response from all professionals, e.g. social services, the police, the courts, medico-legal services, health-care services and education, as all these sectors are important in preventing and managing child sexual abuse with the main aim of effectively protecting the child (Mabusela, 2013:36).

The Children’s Act No 38 of 2005 provides for the mandatory reporting and registration of child abuse, but it is intended only to function at a national level in order to provide national data on patterns and trends to assist in planning (Mathews et al., 2013:91). Although we have the correct legislation, policies and guidelines in place, there is a lack of a comprehensive national child protection strategy and dedicated resources to support its implementation. There is certainly an urgent need for a sound multi-sectoral strategy to co-ordinate child sexual abuse within the field of child protection.

## 15. THE RESEARCHER’S OBSERVATION

It is evident from the data received that child sexual abuse does take place in the Setswana culture in Potchefstroom. The parents also believe that the girl children

may somehow bring about unnecessary attention by dressing in a certain way. There was, however no mention of child sexual abuse of boys.

The findings from the data gathered revealed the following as reasons for the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse - by both the parents and the social workers participating in the study:

- The family status in the community is very important. The family does not want their family name to be tainted or for the community to cast them in a negative light.
- Socio-economic status: the non-offending parent fears losing the breadwinner who may be the alleged offender.
- Lack of parental support, or a supportive environment.
- The Setswana culture still sees sexual abuse as taboo like in many other cultures.
- The culture does not encourage open sexual education with children.
- The children are taught to always respect their parents, they cannot question the elderly.
- Matters are dealt with traditionally, in family meetings or traditional courts. Thereafter, no charges are laid.

## **16. RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the findings of this study, the following recommendations can be made:

- Social workers need to run programmes with parents or caregivers on the importance of sex education with their children, so that they are able to differentiate between what is appropriate and what is not.
- Parents need to be educated on how to maintain open communication with their children, so that the child should not be fearful about disclosing.
- Parents need education on all forms of sexual abuse, not just rape. And they need to know that it may happen to both genders.
- Social workers need to do more awareness training on what child sexual abuse is, the signs of sexual abuse to look out for, and what channels to follow in reporting.

- More social workers need to be trained on the relevant interview techniques when assessing a child who was allegedly sexually abused.
- Social workers need further training on writing reports that must go to court for sexual abuse cases, as some participants mentioned that social workers might be fearful of giving testimony in court.
- Further research on this topic should be conducted, but with a larger sample size.
- Social workers can network with other stakeholders such as SAPS, the Justice Department and so forth in educational programmes for both parents and the children, in the community.
- The following additional points of advice can also be useful for non-offending parents who are dealing with the disclosure of child sexual abuse:
  - Go for counselling.
  - Get help immediately: report the abuse and accept all the help you can get.
  - Take time for yourself.
  - Support each other as parents.
  - Talk about what happened.
  - Do things together as a family

Parents will need to be made aware of their reactions and that their experiences are normal. They should be referred to an appropriate therapist to help them deal with these experiences, and their symptoms need to be monitored continuously by the professional.

## **17. CONCLUSION**

The researcher has come to the conclusion that there is still more work to be done with regard to the perceptions of Setswana parents, especially in Potchefstroom. More awareness campaigns and educational programmes certainly need to be implemented. The parents need to be informed about what is child sexual abuse, the signs of abuse, their roles as parents if their children have been abused sexually, and what channels they need to follow in order to report the alleged crime.

The social workers also need more training on how to render services to children that have been sexually abused. They need to be empowered with the different interviewing techniques which will assist them in getting more information from the children. This will not be possible without the collaboration of different stakeholders.

A multidisciplinary approach needs to be followed, with the Police and Justice Departments to be included. The Setswana community of Potchefstroom definitely needs to be educated on the importance of disclosing child sexual abuse, the benefits for the children involved, and also the possibility of a conviction for the alleged offender.

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# ANNEXURE 1: ETHICAL APPROVAL



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY  
YUNIBESITHI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA  
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT  
POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS

Private Bag X6001, Potchefstroom  
South Africa 2520

Tel: 018 299-1111/2222  
Web: <http://www.nwu.ac.za>

Dr AA Roux  
Social Work

Faculty of Health Sciences  
Tel: 018-299 2092  
Fax: 018-299 2088  
Email: [Minnie.Greeff@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Minnie.Greeff@nwu.ac.za)

8 September 2014

Dear Dr Roux

## **Ethics Application: NWU-00027-09-A1 "The development and evaluation of programs and a protocol in Forensic Social Work"**

Thank you for amending your application. All ethical concerns have now been addressed and inclusion of the sub-study, entitled "The role of Setswana parents in the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse" have been approved by the Health Research Ethics Committee until 30 June 2015.

The applicant should just note that the title of the umbrella project is incorrect on the latest version of the application form.

Yours sincerely

Prof Minnie Greeff  
Health Research Ethics Committee Chairperson

Original details: Prof Minnie Greeff(10187308) C:\Users\13210572\Documents\ETHEK\2009 ETHICS\NWU-00027-09-A1 (AA Roux-SB Chabelane) - Approval letter.docm  
8 September 2014

File reference: 9.1.5.3

# ANNEXURE 2: PERMISSION DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



social development

Department:  
Social Development  
North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## DR KENNETH KAUNDA DISTRICT: TLOKWE SERVICE POINT

Private Bag x 1280 • 2571 • Cnr Albert Luthuli & Genil Maritz • Potchefstroom  
Tel: +27 (18) 297 – 0133 • Fax: +27 (18) 297 – 4528 • [steenkammi@nw.gov.za](mailto:steenkammi@nw.gov.za)

School for Psychosocial

Behavioural Sciences: Social Work

Enquiries Dr. AA Roux

Tel. (018) 299 5760

E-mail: [adrie.roux@nwu.ac.za](mailto:adrie.roux@nwu.ac.za)

09 February 2015

To whom it may concern

### RESEARCH PROJECT: MS. S.B CHABELETSANE MA- STUDENT IN SOCIAL WORK: FORENSIC PRACTICE

This letter hereby grants Ms. S.B Chabeletsane permission to conduct her research project titled "The perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse" in our organisation (The department of Social Development – Tlokwe Service Point). The researcher has requested to conduct interviews with (1) Social workers who have experience with Setswana parents who may have knowledge of what may influence the disclosure of child sexual abuse and (2) Setswana parents who may have attended or attend programs conducted by the social workers.

The researcher has assured the organisation that she will conduct all her interviews in an ethical manner with all the participants involved. The researcher was also requested to furnish us with a copy of her final research report. We wish her best of luck with her studies.

Kind regards

Social work Manager

Lefapha la Tlhabololo Laago • Department van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling



## ANNEXURE 3: PERMISSION SAVF



### SAVF HOOFKANTOOR HEAD OFFICE

Hospitaalstraat 41, ARCADIA 0083  
41 Hospital Street, ARCADIA 0083

40526, ARCADIA 0007  
012 325 3920  
012 324 4109  
hoofbestuur@savf.co.za  
[www.savf.co.za](http://www.savf.co.za)

001-446 NPO

School for Psychosocial Behavioural  
Sciences: Social Work  
Enquiries Dr AA Roux  
Tel. (018) 290 5760  
Fax 0872315483  
E-mail: [adrie.roux@nwu.ac.za](mailto:adrie.roux@nwu.ac.za)

29 July 2015

To whom it may concern

#### RESEARCH PROJECT: MS SB CHABELETSANE MA-STUDENT IN SOCIAL WORK: FORENSIC PRACTICE

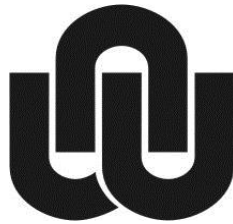
Following relevant documentation from applicable bodies, this letter hereby grants Ms. Boitumelo Chabeletsane permission to conduct a research project titled "*The perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse*" in our organisation (SAVF). The researcher has requested to conduct interviews with (1) Setswana parents who attend or attended programmes conducted by social workers of SAVF as well as (2) with the social workers at SAVF who have experience with Setswana parents who may have knowledge of what might influence the disclosure of child sexual abuse.

Assurance was given that special care will be taken by the researcher to work in an ethical manner with all participants involved. The researcher is also requested to furnish us with a copy of her final research report, best of luck in the endeavour of your studies.

Kind Regards

.....  
Mrs. M. Kemp  
Director Social Services

## ANNEXURE 4: CONSENT SETSWANA PARENTS



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY  
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA  
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT  
POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS

**TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT:** *The perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse.*

### CONSENT OF PARENT TO BE A RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

*(I am a MA-student in Social Work: Forensic practice from the North-West University researching on the perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse and would like to invite you to give consent to participate in my study. My study leader is Dr AA Roux. The following is information about the study and what it will entail so that you can make an informed decision.*

### THE AIM OF THE RESEARCH

The aim of the research is to get your views as Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse.

### DATA COLLECTION:

For the purpose of this research data collection will be by means of an interview.

### PROCEDURES

After I received permission from the managers in the Department of Social Development/SAVF Family Care and from the social workers of these organisations to do the research, the social workers will contact you and explain to you the aim of the research and ask whether you are interested to be part of the research.

If you agree to participate in this study the following procedures will be followed:

- The researcher will ask social workers to provide me with details of you as parents.
- Once I received your details, appointments will be made by the social workers with you where you will be informed by me of the aim of the study, the benefits and risks of taking

part as well as the ethical aspects regarding this research. This will ensure that you make an informed choice on whether to continue taking part.

- After the study has been explained to you, I will give enough time (a week) for you to decide whether you want to participate. After the week you will be requested to sign a form that will serve as the proof that you have agreed to participate in these research.
- Me as researcher will then contact you and arrange a suitable place and time for interviews with you. It will be in an office where the information you will be giving shall not be heard and known to anybody.
- The conversation/interview will be recorded. Written permission to tape-record the conversation/interview will be asked from you.
- The conversation/interview will last not more than an hour.
- Me as the researcher will do the interviews and will write detail reports after each interview.
- I will confirm the data that I received from you as participant (member checking).

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Special care will be taken to work in an ethical manner. All tape-recorded materials and completed interview papers/sheets will be safely stored in a locked cabinet in the researcher's office, where no one has access to. Thereafter, it will be stored in a store room at the Social Work division of the North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, not allowing all people, including the researcher and study leader from having access to the material. Interviews will be held with you as participant separately in a quiet and secret office, to avoid disturbances. You as participant will be given a number beforehand, such as respondent 1, respondent 2 et cetera, so that your name cannot be known. Me as researcher will make sure that I don't mention your name to anyone during the research process. People will not know that the information was given by you as your name will not be mentioned.

## **INFORMED CONSENT**

For the purpose of the study you as Setswana-speaking parent will be briefed about all the relevant information regarding the aim of the research, the expected time of involvement, procedures that will be followed, your name not being known to anyone, voluntary participation and self-termination. No information will be withheld from you in order to allow you to make an informed decision regarding your participation in the research and without making you to believe that something is true even if it's not. This information will be provided

by me by means of an interview with you as parent regarding. You will be given a chance to ask questions before the study starts.

Before you can sign the form to give the permission to be part of the research it is important to know that should you disclose the sexual abuse of a child, the disclosure of you must be reported to the social worker for further investigation.

## **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION**

Written permission will be obtained from the managers of the Department of Social Development/ and SAVF Family Care as well as from you as parent where it will be made clear that participation is voluntary and not a must from you. For the purpose of the study no one is forced to participate. Non-participation in the study will not be disadvantaging in anyway.

## **DEBRIEFING OF RESPONDENTS**

If you experience emotional harm regarding sexual abuse me as interviewer will clarify possible misunderstandings of the information received from me. You will be given the opportunity of working through your possible emotional issues by means of debriefing sessions by another social worker, without any costs.

## **BENEFITS AND RISKS**

The information gained from the research can assist social workers in empowering you with knowledge and insight on why you need to disclose and report child sexual abuse.

Emotional harm may occur due to the disclosure of you regarding the sexual abuse of a child. If you need further assistance you will be referred to a social worker for further services. Throughout the research study, risks will be made less by looking at your emotional wellbeing, through the answers you give to the social worker as interviewer. The benefits will outweigh the risks not only for you as Pedi-speaking caregiver but also for the community. The information gained from this research could assist social workers to empower Setswana-speaking parents with knowledge on why they need to disclose and report child sexual abuse for forensic investigations and how to assist the court when the child is the witness.

## **COSTS**

There will be no cost to you as a result of your participation in this study.

## **PAYMENT**

You will receive no payment for participation. You will receive refreshments after the interviews for the inconvenience of participating in the study. The researcher will pay your travelling fees.

## **FEEDBACK OF FINDINGS**

The findings of the research will be shared with you and the organization as soon as it is available if you are interested.

## **QUESTIONS**

You are welcome to ask any questions to the researcher before you decide to give consent. You are also welcome to contact me as student or my study leader if you have any further questions concerning your participation in the study.

Researcher: Ms S.B. Chabeletsane (073 731 5209 / 082 302 7873)

Study Leader: Dr AA Roux: (082 704 3922)

You may also contact Mrs Carolien van Zyl of the Health Research Ethic Committee at 018 299 2094.

We want to thank you for your kind consideration of our request.

Kind Regards,

.....

Ms S.B. Chabeletsane

MA student: Social Work: Forensic Practice

.....

Dr. Adrie Roux

Study Leader



## CONSENT FORM OF PARENT

### PARTICIPATION IN THIS RESEARCH IS VOLUNTARY.

You are free to decline to be in this study, or to withdraw at any point even after you have signed the form to give consent, without any consequences.

Should you be willing to participate you are requested to sign below:

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby voluntarily consent to participate in the above mentioned study. I am not coerced in any way to participate and I understand that I can withdraw at any time should I feel uncomfortable during the study. I also understand that my name will not be disclosed to anybody who is not part of the study and that the information will be kept confidential and not linked to my name at any stage. I also understand that I might benefit from participation in this project and are aware of the possible risks. Should I need further discussions someone will be available to assist me.

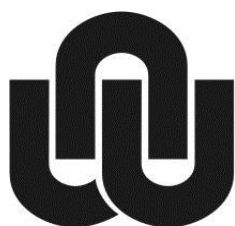
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the person obtaining

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## ANNEXURE 5: CONSENT SOCIAL WORKERS



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY  
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA  
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT  
POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS

**Title of research project:** *The perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse.*

### CONSENT OF SOCIAL WORKER TO BE A RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

*(I am a MA-student in Social Work: Forensic practice from the North-West University doing research on the perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse and would like to invite you, who have contact with Setswana parents in service delivery, in this study. My study leader is Dr AA Roux. The following is information about the study and what it will entail so that you can make an informed decision.*

### AIM OF THE RESEARCH

The aim of the research is to get your views as a social worker on the subject of the *perceptions of Setswana parents regarding disclosure of child sexual abuse.*

### DATA COLLECTION:

For the purpose of this research data collection will be by means of interviews.

### PROCEDURES

- Me the researcher will write a letter addressed to the social work managers of the Department of Social Development/SAVF Family Care requesting permission to do the research with Setswana parents and asking for permission that social workers who have experience through service delivering to Setswana parents who at first did not want to disclose the sexual abuse of their child, can be included in the research. The managers will compile a list of social workers including, names, addresses and contact details.
- Permission from you will finally be obtained after explaining the aim of the research.

- Once you gave permission, appointments will be made and you will all be informed of the aim of the study, the advantages and disadvantages of taking part as well as the ethical aspects regarding this research. This will ensure that you make an informed choice on whether to continue taking part in the research. Enough time will be given to you (approximately week) to go through the details on the consent form before they decide to sign the consent for.
- Written permission will be requested from you for taking part in the research as well as for the interviews to be audio recorded. A consent form will be given to you to be completed for voluntary participation.
- The researcher will arrange convenient dates, time and venues for the interviews with you as the social worker. The interviews will be mostly in the social workers' offices.
- The place and time interviews will take place will be schedule for you as participant.
- The interview with each participant will last approximately one to one and a half hour.
- The researcher will write detail reports after each interview.
- The researcher will determine the accuracy of the findings with you as participant by discussing the **data received from** you (member checking). This will be done during a follow-up interview with the participant.
- The final report will be completed in a mini-dissertation with recommendations regarding the perceptions of Setswana parents in the disclosure of child sexual abuse.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Special care will be taken to work in an ethical manner. All tape-recorded materials and completed interview schedules will be safely stored in a locked cabinet in the researcher's office, where no one has access to, and thereafter, it will be stored in a store room at the Social Work division of the North West university, Potchefstroom Campus, prohibiting all people, including the researcher and study leader from having access to the material. Interviews will be held with each participant separately in a quiet, private office, to avoid interruptions. Each participant will be allocated a number beforehand, such as respondent 1, respondent 2 et cetera, to maintain confidentiality. Me as researcher will maintain anonymity as far as possible during the research process. The participants will be informed of the confidentiality that would apply regarding their identity. Information provided will remain confidential through that the identity of the participants will be reported anonymously to protect the identity of the participants.

## **INFORMED CONSENT**

For the purpose of the study the relevant information will be provided by me by means of an interview with you as social worker regarding expected duration of involvement, procedures

that will be followed, confidentially and voluntary participation and self-termination. An adequate opportunity will be provided for questions before the study commences.

### **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION**

Written permission will be obtained from you where it will be made clear that participation is voluntary. The researcher will ensure for the purpose of the study that all parties are aware that no one is obligated to participate. Non-participation in the study will not be disadvantaging in anyway.

### **DECEPTION OF RESPONDENTS**

You will be briefed about the aim of the research and no information will be held from you and in order to allow you to make an informed decision regarding your participation in the research and to ensure no deception.

### **DEBRIEFING OF RESPONDENTS**

The interviewer will clarify possible misunderstandings of the information received from you. If you need further assistance you will be referred to your manager or therapist for services.

### **BENEFITS AND RISKS**

The information gained from the research can assist you as social worker in empowering Setswana-speaking parents with knowledge and insight on why they need to disclose and report child sexual abuse for forensic investigations and for professionals to assist the court when the child is the witness.

Emotional harm may occur due to the disclosure of you regarding the sexual abuse of a child you experienced in service delivery. If you need further assistance you will be referred for further services. Throughout the research study, risks will be diminished by evaluating the participant's emotional wellbeing, through the answers they give to me as interviewer. The benefits will outweigh the risks not only for the participants but also for you as social worker and the community. The information gained from this research could assist social workers to empower Setswana-speaking parents with knowledge on why they need to disclose and report child sexual abuse for forensic investigations and how to assist the court when the child is the witness.

### **COSTS**

There will be no cost to you as a result of your participation in this study.

### **PAYMENT**

You will receive no payment for participation.

## QUESTIONS

You are welcome to ask any questions to the researcher before you decide to give consent. You are also welcome to contact me as student or my study leader if you have any further questions concerning your participation in the study.

You may also contact Mrs Carolien van Zyl of the Human Research Ethic Committee at 018 299 2094

## FEEDBACK OF FINDINGS

The findings of the research will be shared with you as soon as it is available if you are interested. You are welcome to contact us regarding the findings of the research.

We want to thank you for your kind consideration of our request.

**Researcher: Ms S.B. Chabeletsane (073 731 5209 / 082 302 7873)**

**Study Leader: Dr AA Roux (018 290 5760)**

You may also contact Mrs Carolien van Zyl of the Health Research Ethics Committee at 018 299 2094.

We want to thank you for your kind consideration of our request.

Kind Regards,

.....

Ms SB Chabeletsane

Student: MA in Forensic Practice

.....

Dr AA Roux

Study Leader

## **CONSENT FORM OF SOCIAL WORKER**

### **PARTICIPATION IN THIS RESEARCH IS VOLUNTARY.**

You are free to decline to be in this study, or to withdraw at any point even after you have signed the form to give consent, without any consequences.

Should you be willing to participate you are requested to sign below:

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby voluntarily consent to participate in the above mentioned study. I am not coerced in any way to participate and I understand that I can withdraw at any time should I feel uncomfortable during the study. I also understand that my name will not be disclosed to anybody who is not part of the study and that the information will be kept confidential and not linked to my name at any stage. I also understand that I might benefit from participation in this project and are aware of the possible risks. Should I need further discussions someone will be available to assist me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the person obtaining

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# ANNEXURE 6: AGREEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY  
YUNIBESITHI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA  
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT

## CONFIDENTIALITY UNDERTAKING

entered into between:

I, the undersigned

Prof / Dr / Mr / Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Identity Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

hereby undertake in favor of the **NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY**, a public higher education institution established in terms of the Higher Education Act No. 101 of 1997

Address: Office of the Institutional Registrar, Building C1, 53 Borchard Street,  
Potchefstroom, 2520

(hereinafter the “NWU”)

### 1 Interpretation and definitions

1.1 In this undertaking, unless inconsistent with, or otherwise indicated by the context:

1.1.1 “Confidential Information” shall include all information that is confidential in its nature or marked as confidential and shall include any existing and new information obtained by me after the Commencement Date, including but not be limited in its interpretation to, research data, information concerning research participants, all secret knowledge, technical information and specifications, manufacturing techniques, designs, diagrams, instruction manuals, blueprints, electronic artwork, samples, devices, demonstrations, formulae, know-how, intellectual property, information concerning materials, marketing and business information generally, financial information that may include remuneration detail, pay slips, information relating to human capital and employment contract, employment conditions, ledgers,

income and expenditures and other materials of whatever description in which the NWU has an interest in being kept confidential; and

**1.1.2** "Commencement Date" means the date of signature of this undertaking by myself.

**1.2** The headings of clauses are intended for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of this undertaking.

## **2 Preamble**

**2.1** In performing certain duties requested by the NWU, I will have access to certain Confidential Information provided by the NWU in order to perform the said duties and I agree that it must be kept confidential.

**2.2** The NWU has agreed to disclose certain of this Confidential Information and other information to me subject to me agreeing to the terms of confidentiality set out herein.

## **3 Title to the Confidential Information**

I hereby acknowledge that all right, title and interest in and to the Confidential Information vests in the NWU and that I will have no claim of any nature in and to the Confidential Information.

## **4 Period of confidentiality**

The provisions of this undertaking shall begin on the Commencement Date and remain in force indefinitely.

## **5 Non-disclosure and undertakings**

I undertake:

**5.1** to maintain the confidentiality of any Confidential Information to which I shall be allowed access by the NWU, whether before or after the Commencement Date of this undertaking. I will not divulge or permit to be divulged to any person any aspect of such Confidential Information otherwise than may be allowed in terms of this undertaking;

**5.2** to take all such steps as may be necessary to prevent the Confidential Information falling into the hands of an unauthorised third party;

**5.3** not to make use of any of the Confidential Information in the development, manufacture, marketing and/or sale of any goods;

**5.4** Not to use any research data for publication purposes;

**5.5** not to use or disclose or attempt to use or disclose the Confidential Information for any purpose other than performing research purposes only and includes questionnaires, interviews with participants, data gathering, data analysis and personal information of participants/research subjects;

**5.6** not to use or attempt to use the Confidential Information in any manner which will cause or be likely to cause injury or loss to a research participant or the NWU; and



**5.7** that all documentation furnished to me by the NWU pursuant to this undertaking will remain the property of the NWU and upon the request of the NWU will be returned to the NWU. I shall not make copies of any such documentation without the prior written consent of the NWU.

**6 Exception**

The above undertakings by myself shall not apply to Confidential Information which I am compelled to disclose in terms of a court order.

**7 Jurisdiction**

This undertaking shall be governed by South African law be subject to the jurisdiction of South African courts in respect of any dispute flowing from this undertaking.

**8 Whole agreement**

**8.1** This document constitutes the whole of this undertaking to the exclusion of all else.

**8.2** No amendment, alteration, addition, variation or consensual cancellation of this undertaking will be valid unless in writing and signed by me and the NWU.

Dated at Potchefstroom this \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

Witnesses:

1 .....

2 .....

*(Signatures of witnesses)*

.....

*(Signature)*

# **ANNEXURE 7: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE - PARENTS**

## **RESEARCH TITLE:**

**The perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse**

**Respondent No.:**\_\_\_\_\_

## **INTRODUCTION**

The researcher, S.B Chabeletsane is conducting research on the perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse. The results obtained from this research will assist social workers to empower Setswana parents with knowledge and insight on why they need to disclose child sexual abuse for forensic investigations, how to prevent the recanting of that disclosure and thus ensure the successful prosecution of the alleged perpetrator.

The results of this research project will be used by me, Ms S.B Chabeletsane to fulfill the research requirements of the North- West University (Potchefstroom Campus) and to obtain my Masters degree in Social Work: Forensic Practice.

Please answer the following questions with honesty and to the fullest. Remember there is no right or wrong answers.

Thank you for your voluntary co-operation, your opinions and time. Your support is of great value in the prevention of the non-disclosure and recantation of child sexual abuse.

## BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE PARENTS

### 1. AGE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

AGE	MARK WITH AN "X" IN THE RELEVANT BOX
20 - 30	
31 - 40	
41- 50	
51 - 60	
ABOVE 60	

### 2. GENDER

MALE	FEMALE

### 3. DISCLOSURE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

#### 1. *What is your understanding of child sexual abuse*

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

#### 2. *What is your perception on children telling others that they have been sexually abuse?*

.....

.....

.....

.....

#### 3. *What is your perception on parents' disclosure of their child's sexual abuse?*

.....

.....

.....

.....

#### 4. *As parent what are according to you the reasons why Setswana parents do not want to disclosure the sexual abuse of a child?*

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

5. *As Setswana parent, how do you see your role in assisting children to tell you as parent that they have been sexually abused?*

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

---

**MS. S.B CHABELETSANE**

**Master degree student in Social Work: Forensic Practice**

**North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus**

# **ANNEXURE 8: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE – SOCIAL WORKERS**

**Research Title: The perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure  
of child sexual abuse**

**Respondent No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Introduction**

The researcher, S.B Chabeletsane is conducting research on the perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child sexual abuse. The results obtained from this research will assist social workers to empower Setswana parents with knowledge and insight on why they need to disclose child sexual abuse for forensic investigations, how to prevent the recanting of that disclosure and thus ensure the successful prosecution of the alleged perpetrator.

The results of this research project will be used by me, Ms SB Chabeletsane to fulfill the research requirements of the North- West University (Potchefstroom Campus) and to obtain my Masters degree in Social Work: Forensic Practice.

Please answer the following questions with honesty and to the fullest. Remember there is no right or wrong answers.

Thank you for your voluntary co-operation, your opinions and time. Your support is of great value in the prevention of the non-disclosure and recantation of child sexual abuse.

## **A. BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE PARENTS**

### **1. AGE OF THE PARTICIPANTS**

Age	Mark with a "X" in the relevant box
20-30	
31-40	
41-50	
51-60	
ABOVE 60	

**2. GENDER (Mark with an “X” in the relevant box)**

Male	Female

**3. WORK EXPERIENCE**

1-5 years	
6-10 years	
11-15 years	
16-20 years	
20-25 years	
More than 25 years	

**4. HIGHEST LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION**

Diploma in social work	
BA Degree in social work	
Honns. Social work	
MA Social work	
MA Social work: Forensic Practice	
PhD	
Other	

**5. DISCLOSURE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

5.1 *As a social worker what are your perceptions regarding parents’ non-disclosure of the sexual abuse of a child?*

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5.2 *In the Setswana culture, how do you think the Setswana parents assist towards helping children to disclose their sexual abuse?*

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5.3 *What according to you may be the reasons why Setswana parents do not want to disclose the sexual abuse of their child (ren)?”*

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- 5.4     *What can a social worker do to minimize the non-disclosure or recantation of child sexual abuse in Setswana children?*

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**MS. S.B Chabeletsane**

**Master degree student in Social Work: Forensic Practice**

**North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus**

**I, Vivien van der Sandt, hereby confirm that I completed the editing of the  
Dissertation entitled:**

***The perceptions of Setswana parents regarding the disclosure of child  
sexual abuse***

**By SB Chabeletsane**



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**23 NOVEMBER 2015**