

**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**



**AN EXPLORATION OF THE ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TOWARDS NEGATIVE  
PARENTING: A CASE OF MARONDERA DISTRICT**

**BY**

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**A dissertation submitted to Bindura University of Science Education, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Department of Social Work in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Social Work.**

**SUPERVISOR MRS ZINYEMBA**

**2021**



APPROVAL FORM

I certify that I supervised Glenda Sanganisa in carrying out this research titled: **AN EXPLORATION OF THE ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TOWARDS NEGATIVE PARENTING: A CASE OF MARONDERA DISTRICT**, in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science, Honours Degree in Social Work and recommend that it proceeds for examination.

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*Chairperson of the Department Board of Examiners*

The Department Board of Examiners is satisfied that this dissertation report meets the examination requirements and therefore I recommend to Bindura University to accept this research project by Glenda Sanganisa titled: **AN EXPLORATION OF THE ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TOWARDS NEGATIVE PARENTING: A CASE OF MARONDERA DISTRICT**, in partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science, Honours Degree in Social work.

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I, Glenda Sanganisa studying for a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Social Work, knowing that plagiarism is an academic offense and that fabricating information is a breach of the ethics of Social Work research, I truthfully declare that:

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During the course of the research I followed the research ethics required in pursuit of Social Work study.

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**Marondera**

## DEDICATIONS

This dissertation is dedicated to my loving mother, Adressia Mutambu. Thank you so much for being a loving and caring mother, I will always love you. I also dedicate this to Mr Nobert Sanganisa, thank you so much for being a father and a role model. I also dedicate this to my young brother Willom Sanganisa.

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## ABSTRACT

*The research explored the attitude of parents towards negative parenting in Marondera District. The study was as a result of the high rates of misbehavior amongst children which were attributed to the parenting style that parents were mainly using. Therefore it became imperative for this study to be conducted to find out the negative parenting skills being employed by parents which affect children. The objectives were, to explore community perceptions towards good parenting methods. To examine attitude of parents towards negative parenting and to assess the effects of parenting methods used by most parents. The study used qualitative research approach. The research employed key informant interviews and focus group discussions as methods to gather data. The major findings from the study reveal that most parents find opportunities to complement their children after a good performance. More so, majority of the parents indicated that when their children perform well they reward them as a way of complimenting their children and this motivates their children and those children continues to do well and parents take into consideration their children's opinion. Child's best interest should always be considered The study also recommends that parenting education should be provided to parents providing care to children so as to enable them to cope with good parenting. The government should consider children's opinions as an important resource for child care and as such should work on effective social policies that are responsive to the challenges parents face in parenting.*

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

<b>NAC:</b>	National Aids Council
<b>NGO:</b>	Non-governmental Organization
<b>VFU:</b>	Victim Friendly Unity
<b>UN:</b>	United Nations
<b>GDP:</b>	Gross Domestic Product

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

The chapter will present a detailed overview of the study on the attitude of parents towards negative parenting. Background of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, justification of the study, limitations of the study, delimitations of the study and definition of terms will also be provided in this chapter.

### **1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Negative parenting involves some things that are generally considered bad by anyone. Physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse and sexual abuse are the most serious and damaging behavior traits that most of us equate with bad parenting. Poor parenting is most often tied to expectations of poor outcomes, where children are seen as being at risk of neglect or maltreatment. Intervention by the state is aimed at ensuring children be saved from such parents, either through training or by placing children in settings that provide more appropriate care. Therefore in view of this reality this study analyzed effects of negative parenting in Marondera district, Zimbabwe.

Basically there are four types of parenting namely authoritarian, permissive, uninvolved and authoritative. Baumrind, (1968) postulates that bad parenting involves over or under involvement on one end, little or no discipline, strict or rigid discipline, withdrawing affection, attention and shaming.

Parenting style is one potential contributor to the development of adolescent's cognitions, self-esteem and emotional problems. Parent's affectionate attitude towards negative parenting can negatively be the major for precursors to child abuse. Many adolescents suffer from emotional

problems including depression. Depressive symptoms have been found to have detrimental impacts on adolescent social and emotional development. Research have shown that parenting behaviors are correlated with adolescent's depressive symptoms and problem behavior. According to findings mothers are more over-protective more democratic and less disciplined than fathers. Parents living in urban areas are more over-protective, more democratic and less disciplined than parents living in rural areas. Moreover, parents living in extended families are more disciplined, less over-protective and less democratic-egalitarian in terms of attitudes than parents live in nucleus families. Parents' affectionate attitude towards negative parenting can negatively be the major for precursors to child abuse. In Marondera district they are many issues rising due to the attitude of parents towards negative parenting and are left unattended therefore the research intended to carry out this study.

More so many adolescents suffer from emotional problems, due to the attitude of parents towards negative parenting and parents who have a negative approach will have children with a higher susceptibility to depression. In Zimbabwe most parents expressed negative emotions towards their children, handle them roughly and this issues are being left unattended due to the fact that they are the parents. Moreover negative parenting can be rooted from the parent's background, economic causes, social causes and physical causes. Unattended gaps by the earlier researches and appraisal of the work done. The four parenting styles which are authoritarian, authoritative, indulgent and uninvolved also plays a role in molding a child. Parenting across many societies has remained complex process, each society formulating its own models of preferable parenting styles in Marondera children are being affected mostly due to attitude of parents towards negative parenting this can be evidence by the highest number of juvenile delinquency in this area. Indigenous

methods of parenting though there has been little literature written about them, it is in this report that it set to find out.

(Bandura, 1977) articulated that aggression models showed that current parenting practices were strongly associated with current depression and higher self-esteem, future optimism and school satisfaction.

### **1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Ideally children are supposed to be reared in a good environment without abuse in the form of verbal, sexual, economic, psychological and physical abuse. However children are now being reared in an environment with a lot of negative parenting where they face a lot of abuse like being beaten, being given abnormal workloads, being denied access to school and being ill-treated. There being many causes of the negative parenting in Marondera. There have been widening gaps in service delivery concerned to parent's attitude. This highlight largely by the fact of few presence of agencies who endeavor to help parents towards the root cause of negative parenting, the prevailing parenting situation in Zimbabwe had been disposable and dismissal. This triggered the student to research on the factors of negative parenting its effectiveness. Additionally, multiagency practice has a western origin and thus the researcher intends to explore the applicability of the concept in the Zimbabwean context.

### **1.4 AIM OF THE STUDY**

The aim of the study is to explore the attitude of parents towards negative parenting.

## **1.5 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To explore community perceptions towards good parenting methods.
2. To assess the effects of parenting methods used by most parents.
3. To examine the attitude of parents towards negative parenting

## **1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are the community perception towards good parenting methods?
2. What are the effects of parenting methods used by most parents?
3. What are the attitude of parents towards negative parenting?

## **1.7 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY**

Carrying out this study is relevant because there is limited existing literature on negative parenting. Therefore it becomes prudent to add more knowledge in the area under study. Thence the study will center on the negative parenting and through this study parents will receive proper assistance on good parenting. Findings from the research are expected to be essential to policy makers in drafting policies that effectively protect the rights and interests of children. United Nations charter on the rights of children the world leaders finds it compulsory for child rights to be respected worldwide. Both the government and NGOs can use the results of this study to formulate intervention strategies which better assist parents and their children. The research will also be used by the responsible authorities in various institutions to modify their institutional policies so that

they effectively and positively respond to the cases of delinquency behavior of children in the country.

### **1.8 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

Limitations are the confounding factors that the researcher cannot control. The factors pose restrictions on the study methods and conclusions. The main limitation expected is that the respondents are likely to become desperate for monetary and material assistance, hence a study of this nature may worsen their expectations for benefits. Hence to avoid such scenarios the researcher has to explain to the respondents that the study was not meant for material distribution. The second one some of the respondents were unwilling to participate at times due to Covid 19. Thence the researcher could wore mask and moved with her own sanitizer so that some of the respondents would participate.

### **1.9 DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

This refers to the boundaries set for the study. That is the various considerations which facilitate the researcher in undertaking the study and the parameters of what could not be covered in the study. The study will be focusing on the attitude of parents towards negative parenting in Marondera district. Hence it will not be a true representative of the negative attitude of parents towards negative parenting in other towns and cities as only one city is being studied. The sample of the study is also going to be small hence the results cannot be of the attitude of parents towards negative parenting in Zimbabwe.

### **1.10 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Attitudes are the expressions of the values individuals have about raising children that include thoughts, beliefs and judgments about child care (Bandura 1977).

(Baez, 2002) defines parents as it includes not only biological parents, but step-parents, grandparents, foster parents, guardians and any other concerned person who may carry the primary responsibility for the child's development, education and general wellbeing.

Negative parenting includes when parents expressed negative emotions towards their children handled them roughly (Baez, 2002).

### **1.11 ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY**

This research work pertaining to attitude of parents towards negative parenting is divided into five chapters. Chapter one introduces and highlights the background of the study. As the first chapter it outlines the statement of the problem, aim of the study, research objectives, research questions and justification of study. The chapter also includes, limitations of the study, delimitations of the study and definition of terms. Second chapter provides literature review on the attitude of parents towards negative parenting, evaluating its efficacy from secondary data to juxtapose the outcomes of secondary data with the primary data of the research. Chapter three presents research methods. The chapter highlights the study research design, sampling, data collection tools and methods. The fourth chapter presents and analyses research findings. The final chapter draws on conclusions from the findings presented in chapter four and provides recommendations for improved in attitude of parents towards parenting in Zimbabwe and for further research.

### **1.12 CONCLUSION**

Chapter presented the background of study. It outlined the statement of the problem, aim of the study and objectives as well as research questions. It stressed out the justification of study, delimitations of the study, limitations of the study and finally definition of key terms.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

The chapter will present a detailed literature review of the study on the attitude of parents towards negative parenting. In this chapter, a theoretical framework that is in line with the study shall be in cooperated just after the introduction. Furthermore, a detailed literature review with subtopics that reflects the project objectives will also be presented.

### **2.2 BEHAVIORALIST THEORY**

John B Watson's behavioral theory, behaviorism focuses on the idea that all behaviors are learned through interaction with the environment. This learning theory states that behaviors are learned from the environment and says that innate or inheritance had very little influence on behavior. Within behaviorism, Watson specialized in child development arguing that a child's environment is the factor that shapes behaviors over the genetic makeup or natural temperament. Watson said in parenting we use the principles of behaviorism in ways that improve positive behavior and decrease unwanted behavior.

The idea is basically simple. Parents should find as many opportunities as possible each day to complement their children for making good choices or engage in behaviors that are pleasing to the parent. This serves as positive reinforcement and increases the likelihood these behaviors will increase. At the same time parents should not draw much attention to the behaviors they do not like seeing in their children. As children they are not positively reinforced for this, they will be more likely to drop off. This is because the emphasis is on what the child is doing right, this is often referred as positive discipline. This is contrasted with punishment to stop undesirable

behavior, which is not recommended because it is very harsh and has an undertone of wanting the child to suffer. The underlying idea is that children are learning, whether that is to behave appropriately or to behave inappropriately. What typically hardest for parents, is to ignore behaviors that bother them and to stay calm about them. Overtime and however, not only are children better behaved and more in control of their own decisions and behavior, but the parent-child relationship is more pleasant. For this reason, positive parenting is sometimes called peaceful parenting. Therefore, according to Watson if parents in Marondera learn how to observe talents and abilities of their children it will help them nature their children into useful adults.

### **2.3 COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS GOOD PARENTING METHODS**

More so in America, it concluded that mothers are more over-protective, more democratic and less disciplined than fathers, so for children to practice good parenting they should be raised by both parents. Moreover, children living in extended families are more disciplined, less over-protective and less democratic egalitarian in terms of attitudes than children live in nucleus families, so it's good for children to have a test of extended family than to only live in a nuclear family. As a result educational status, gender, family type and location are predictors for parents' childrearing attitude. However, the variables of age and number of children do not contribute to the total variance significantly. In Britain collateral impact on the law-abiding population creates a particularly widespread perception of unfairness. In this way the entire society can feel over policed and under protected thus Baez, (2002). This clearly shows that children had much power they can do whatever they like because they know the law can protect them and the value their right most. Rights are good but to a lesser because in Britain beating your own child is not

allowed. In Turkish society and many other societies, there are some opinions based on culture and tradition on childrearing attitudes. Child care is seen as a duty of the mother, the father bears responsibility for the person that meets the economic requirements of the house Baumrind, (1968). Changing living conditions, family structure and the change in working conditions brought the need for child care. The working condition of women brought the obligation to share the responsibility of child care (Talib, Abdullah and Masor, 2011).

In Zimbabwe from the moment of birth, child is affected by family environment in which he lives. Child's perception of mother and father creates the basic perception of other people, mothers and fathers can affect the child outside the child's inborn personality traits. Children are not passive, but constantly interacting with their environment changing all the time. According to the attitude of the parents, children overcome the difficulties faced in the process of adaptation to the society or they have permanent problems arise. Children grow in harmonious relations, love and understanding in a good family environment, ripe, create their personality and consolidate their confidence and self-respect if supported. Muchabaiwa, (2019) postulates that in Zimbabwe district parents generally think that being too lenient to their children is a gesture of good parenting. However, in most instances this has not turned out to be correct as this scenario depicts the uninvolved parenting style.

## **2:4 EFFECTS OF PARENTING METHODS USED BY MOST PARENTS**

Parenting had a direct impact on children behavior, which affect their ability to realize their potential. Parents face multiple challenges and stressors. Harsh inconsistent parenting exposure to violence in the home and community and corporal punishment increases the risk that children

will grow up to use violence or to be the violence themselves. Supporting parents is crucial to national development. In democratic attitude, in Japan the attitude of the family based on love and independence children have the right to share ideas parents' respect children's decisions enter into cooperation and support their children. These children are observed as more independent, outward looking and creative. Friendly atmosphere at home is usually dominated. In South Africa they are more juvenile delinquency cases due to negative parenting. Moitra and Mukherjee (2015) argue that there is a noteworthy role of parents in shaping the delinquent behavior of adolescents. For example, they point out that home is the place where a normal and healthy development of any child starts and the family constitutes the backbone of an individual. From this perspective, family is considered to be a basic ecology in which the behavior of children is manifested in their childhood by way of negative or positive reinforcement. Talib, Abdullah and Mansor (2011) argue that the family of a child is a socio-cultural-economic arrangement that has a significant influence on not only the behavior of the children, but also on the development of their characters. Therefore, ignorance in their parenting can lead them towards unwanted damaging effects that ultimately create behavioral problems in children. However, in Singapore Baumrind, (1968) believes that parenting is a compound activity of many particular behaviors working individually or together that effect on the behavior of children. It would not be wrong to state that adolescent delinquency is more concerned with parenting styles. In authoritarian attitudes in Zimbabwe children are always under continuous supervision and pressure. Parents want children to adhere to strict rules. In this attitude penalty is at the forefront, there is no flexibility in behavior and this draws attention because child's rights are minimized. Child has the fear to make things wrong. In authoritarian attitude parents' show their love to their children as children act as how their parents want, waiting absolute obedience the fulfillment of

requests and orders from children and give any decision about the children. This relationship is based on his or her parent's relationships Baez, (2006) found that as mothers increase the level of authority, there is an increase in problems with children as result of their research. They also found out that there is an inverse proportion between mothers' level of free, democratic attitudes and level of problems of children. Parenting does not happen in a vacuum and most Zimbabwean parents face a range of financial challenges. Poverty constitutes a particular risk for parenting. Not only does a lack financial resources affect the ability of parents to provide nutrition, health care and education it makes parenting itself much more difficult.

In addition, more than 50% of children in Zimbabwe grow up in households where caregivers parent without the support of the other parent. Parents struggling with poverty are more likely to suffer from depression and depressed parents are more likely to use harsh punishment and to be inconsistent in their responses to their children's behavior. Mothers in this situation are less likely to be affectionate towards their children and more likely to use corporal punishment. They are also likely to leave them unsupervised in other words to monitor them less. This type of harsh, inconsistent parenting that features a lack of warmth and supervision increases the likelihood of children abusing drugs or alcohol, engaging in risky sex and becoming involved in crime. Parents living in poverty are also less likely to have the social support that assists better-off parents with their parenting. This makes it particularly essential to put into place evidence-based programs that support parents. That is the legal and policy mandate Interventions to support and develop positive parenting

## **2.5 ATTITUDES OF PARENTS TOWARDS NEGATIVE PARENTING**

The authoritarian parents attempt to evaluate, shape and control the attitudes as well as behavior of their children in line with set standards of conduct, known as absolute standard. In the light of this absolute standard, children are supposed to follow very strict rules defined by their parents. In case the children fail to comply with such rules they are punished. Baez, (2002) points out that authoritarian parents usually fail to come up with reasoning behind such rules. Authoritarian parents exhibit usually fail to come up with reasoning behind such rules. Moreover authoritarian parents exhibit low responsiveness and they are highly demanding. In this style of parenting parents emphasize on conformity and obedience and thus expect that they are obeyed without explanation in a less warm environment.

Furthermore, authoritarian parents display low level of engagement and trust toward their children. They most often discourage open communication and make strict control of a child's behavior. In other words, it is widely believed that an authoritarian parent is forceful, punitive and believes that a child should adhere to work in accordance to ethics and should be obedient. In the authoritarian parenting style parents are more concerned with the traditional family structure therefore, they limit children in terms of psychological and behavior context. For instance Muchabaiwa, (2019) finds that authoritarian parenting has deep connection with more negative behavioral outcomes.

## **2.6 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

Chapter presented the theoretical framework and linking it to the study. It outlined the literature review in conjunction with the project objectives focusing from the literature from developed countries perspectives scaling down to Zimbabwe. All the literature reviewed had different

results as parents' perspectives to parenting differ according to how developed the country is and several other factors. Also, this study ought to fill the missing gap between the already existing literature to try and condense the study into Zimbabwe specifically Marondera.

## **CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter will present the methodology which was used in this study. Research methodology is the understanding of the science of how research is done scientifically. The technique used, data collection instruments, target population, the sampling methods used and ethical considerations will be covered. The study gathered information on how the study has gathered the data on the attitude of parents towards negative Parenting. This was done using a case of Marondera district.

### **3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN**

This research design allowed me to use exploratory research method. Professional scientific research defines exploratory research as a research that is conducted when enough is not known about a phenomenon and when the problem has not been clearly defined Saunders, (2009). Exploratory research gives flexibility and adaptability to change since it does not have a standard process and in conducting with the parents and the informants on the attitude of parents towards negative parenting, it also gives researchers more insight into the study. Moreover, it saves time and other resources by determining at the earlier stage the types of research that are worth pursuing. Research design is needed because it facilitates the smooth sailing of the various research operations, thereby making research as efficient as possible yielding maximal information with minimal expenditure of effort, time and money.

### **3.3 RESEARCH APPROACH**

This research was qualitative in nature. Qualitative research approach provides a much more flexibility approach if useful insights are not being captured researchers can quickly adapt

questions, change setting. The researcher was helped in finding the attitude of parents towards negative parenting, with the means of understanding a phenomenon by observing or interacting with the participants of the study. Punch, (2005) assert that qualitative design brings the research close to participants. Lastly it can be an open ended process researchers are able to ask open ended questions whenever they feel it is necessary to collect information from the individuals involved in the study.

### **3.4 RESEARCH METHODS**

Focus Group discussions and Key informant interviews were used as data collection methods. The focus Group groups consisted of six to twelve people and the sessions were 30 minutes long. The focus group discussions and Key informant interviews data collection methods used were cheaper and time saving. They provide a measure to reactions, not opinions as they involve face to face interaction allowing the researcher to identify respondent's reactions. Furthermore focus group discussions were advantageous over individual interviews as they provide valid information from a group not individuals. More so, the researcher used Key Informant interviews which were 15-20 minutes long per session.

### **3.5 RESEARCH TOOLS**

The challenges faced by the parents in coping mechanisms were identified through the use of the structured and unstructured interview schedules. According to Rubin and Babbie (1993) an interview schedule refers to a set of questionnaires that are administered by the interviewer asking questions and these ensure a higher response rate from the interviewee. Observations were also employed to gather the information on the conditions in which the respondents were living in and also other challenges they are facing which are noticeable without the asking of questions.

### **3.6 TARGETED POPULATION**

The research targeted the all parents and all agencies which work with parents towards their attitude in negative parenting as the key informants. Whittaker, (2012) defined target population as the elements to which the researcher wants to make inferences.

### **3.7 SAMPLING**

A simple random sampling technique was utilized and purposive sampling. According to Palys, (2008) points out purposive sampling are a technique whereby respondents are chosen in a nonrandom manner based on their expertise on the phenomenon being studied. Three key informants have been purposively sampled from the organizations which deal on issues of negative parenting. First key informant was from Zimttech, secondly from Zichire and lastly from Tirere pamwe. . Purposive sampling technique was also used on agencies, based on what the researcher thinks to be an average unit of the represented group. Simple random sampling was used on parents to ensure equal selection, according to Rabbin and Babbie, (2007) this method allows respondents to have an equal opportunity to be selected for the research.

### **3.8 RESEARCH ETHICS**

The study was conducted under the guidance of ethical considerations which are informed consent, no harm and confidentiality. Akaranga and Makau (2016) assert that to avoid exploitation of humans the Nuremberg code of 1948 was promulgated. Ethical considerations implore researchers to consider what is right or wrong and guide their conduct during research in a way which does not violate the rights of others.

Informed consent

Every participant has the inherent right to choose to or not to take part in the research, Akaranga and Makau (2016) assert that informed consent is when a person knowingly, voluntarily, intelligently and in a clear and manifest way gives his or her permission or assent to participate. Thus, there is great emphasis on the volition of participants to contribute to the study. The research upheld the fact that participants have a right to know everything about the research before they choose to or not to take part in it. Upholding informed consent is imperative in that it helped the researcher to gain the buy-in of the participants and they will participate with all willingness which enriches the information the researcher elicits. To ensure informed consent, researcher issued a written consent form and further made a verbal plea to get the client's informed consent. This ensured that all participants were doing so willingly unwillingness may be a confounding factor in eliciting truthful information about the issue.

#### No harm

The principle of no harm was also applied during the study .The researcher ensured that study would not cause further damage and suffering as a results of investigating the study.

#### Confidentiality

Confidentiality is both a right and an obligation. It is a right to the client and a mandate for the researcher to ensure that information is not released in ways that can expose the participant to harm of any nature. According to Fouka and Mantzorou (2011) confidentiality is related to the participants' right of beneficence. Therefore, it refers to the treatment of information shared under the condition that it will not be released in a way inconsistent with the prior agreement with all interested parties. This approach asserts that researcher must collect, analyze and present data

without compromising the identity of the participants. To ensure that confidentiality was respected, the researcher ensured anonymity by using pseudonyms to ensure that during data transcription no participant identity would permeate through to the final information. The ultimate intent was complete confidentiality for all the participants, as the ‘convention of confidentiality’. Upholding the confidentiality convention also helps the researcher to remain within the ethical parameters of the research and enhance the integrity of the research process.

### **3.9 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE**

Data collection entails to the gathering and measuring information on targeted participants or respondents in an established system Saunders, (2009). The researcher used focused groups and key informants to get the information. It also enhanced voluntary participation since all the participants participated without coercion hence increasing the authenticity of the data.

### **3.10 DATA ANALYSIS**

According to Punch, (2005) data analysis is the process of analyzing all the information gathered and evaluating the relevant information that can be helpful in decision making. The researcher reconciled various themes which emerged from structured and unstructured interviews as well as from the observations of the attitude of parents towards negative parenting. These were analyzed in the light of the research’s objectives and literature reviewed. The findings were analyzed using the manual form.

### **3.11 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

This chapter highlighted the research design used by the researcher. It also highlighted the study population which was parents. Also, the chapter highlighted the data collection methods which

were questionnaires, semi-structured interviews and general observations during interviews. This chapter then highlighted data analysis and ethical issues which guided the course of the research.

## **CHAPTER 4: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

### **4:1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents and analysis the research finding on the attitude of parents towards negative parenting. The research sought to explore community perception towards good parenting methods, effects of parenting methods used by most parents and attitude of parents towards negative parenting.

### **4.2 COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS GOOD PARENTING METHODS**

The researcher found out that most parents find opportunities to complement their children after a good performance. More so, majority of the parents indicated that when their children perform well they reward them as a way of complimenting their children. Moreover key informants were in support of focus groups, that parents find opportunities to complement their children, this is evidenced by some of the gadgets or items that you find children with like laptops and smartphones.

One of the respondents said *“ndichamutengera patapata meaning i will buy her slippers”*.

Most of the respondents from focus group discussions proved that, parents do not draw much attention to the behaviors which they dislike from their children. This can be attributed to factors such as globalization that has compromised quality time that should be spend with parents and their children. In this era much time is consumed with social media, work and even education as much parents are now preferring boarding schools where their children spend much of their time at. The research revealed that most of the respondents were taking into consideration their children’s talents and abilities. Some of the responded indicated that they send their children to group A schools as a way to give them an opportunity to nature their talents. Group A schools

have a capacity in terms of resources to identify and nature children's talents. However some parents revealed out that they wish to send their children to institutions with capacity and ability. Key informants were in support of the findings from focus group discussion and they revealed that they is stiff competition in group A school's enrollment.

One of the women respondents mentioned that *"early birds catch the fish"*.

Most of the parents do not spend greater proportion of their time with their children, they spend it with friends and colleagues. Families lack bonding time with their children, families spending less quality time together contributing to negative youth development poor family fitness and lack of family communication and trust. More so key informants indicated that some parents at their spare time they went to recreation areas, leaving their children behind.

One of the key informants said *"we mostly go out as a couple"*.

Most of the parents do not allow other people or neighbors to correct their children from bad behaviors. They viewed it as a way of degrading their children because most parents mentioned that neighbors want to correct their children when they are at congregations. Neighbors do not correct their children in a good way they do it as a way of trying to cause a child to lose self-confidence. Moreover this was supported by the key informants who even went further to say some neighbors want to correct their children at congregation. He or she can stand at a congregation and try to correct his or her neighbors child whilst these people are still neighbors.

One of the key informants said *"a neighbor can even went further to appoint your child when they is a story that might involve children issues not as a way of correcting him or her but humiliation"*.

Majority of the respondents consider other people's compliments in regards to their children's behavior and they take them to help mold their children behavior. Most parents were in agreement that people's compliment are essential in trying to know the behavior of your child because, most children alter their behavior when they know that their parents are observing them. This was also supported by key informants who said noted that most parents what to see all children doing well wherever it's his or her child they do not want to see them engaging in maladaptive behaviors.

This was also supported by one of the key informants who went further to say " *teach them all, to roads that lead to success*".

Parents consider language as a contributing factor to good parenting. Parents plays a crucial role in child's language Development. Most responded reviewed that children who are spoken with a great deal during early childhood will have larger vocabularies and better grammar than those are not. Furthermore some of the parents are leaders at church, they spoke good words so their children imitate their language. Key informants concur with the view that, language have a contributing factor to good parenting. This is evidenced by the majority of Christian language.

One of the respondents said "*children are blessings from God.*"

Greater proportion of the respondents, alluded that children do not overcome hitches they face in society adaptation. This was also supported by some of the parents who revealed the increment in school dropouts. Furthermore, this was evidenced by the key informants who pointed out that, this might be as a result of peer pressure. Through observations from Marondera District, the researcher noted that the greater population of children in certain specific areas were involved in similar

notorious and unethical activities such as, drug abuse, minors engaging in sexual activities and gambling.

One of the key informants mentioned that " *vana vamazuva ano kupfeka bhandi kwakutofamba meaning children of nowadays can even walk with belts only*".

#### **4:3 EFFECTS OF PARENTING METHODS USED BY MOST PARENTS**

More than 70% of the respondents concurred that, types of parenting have an impact on children's capabilities to identify their talents and abilities. The attributes and behaviors presented by grownups in the society are as a result of the parenting type experienced by the child when he or she was growing up. Parenting type is the one that mold the behavior of the child.

One of the key informants argued that, " *charity begins at home*".

The research findings elaborate that supporting parents pays crucial role in national development. Most of the respondents sent their children's to Group A schools that have a capacity in terms of resources to identify and nature children's talents and enabling their abilities. For instance those that have talents in arts and sports now focus on their specific area of specialization. Those children's will represent Zimbabwe in other countries in sports like running, playing football, swimming and chess thereby boosting the Gross Domestic Product(GDP) of the country. However key informants alluded that even some of the parents that sent their children to group A schools their children do not confirm to the good behavior that others achieve.

One of the respondents points out that " *zvipo zvinosiyana meaning talents differs*".

Larger proportion of the respondents indicated that ignorance in parenting have an impact in parenting behavior. Most parenting do not know how to talk to their children and how to identify their talents and abilities. Moreover on how to discipline them, focus group were in support of that ignorant in parenting have an impact in parenting behavior this is indicated by the juvenile cases most mentioned that they do not even know they had committed a crime because they do not have knowledge to know rules and policies of the country.

One of the key informants who were in support of that went on further to say “*ignorance leads children astray*”.

The findings from the focus group discussions indicated that most parents often discourage open communication and make strict control of their child’s behavior. They viewed it as a way of giving their children much freedom so that they will engage in bad behaviors because they know that their parents are being too lenient to them. This was supported by the key informants who mentioned that most parents do not talk some staff with their children most parents talk formally they want to maintain the respect among themselves.

One of the key informants said that “*most father prefer their children to great them like how are you father not hie*”.

Most respondents from the focus groups have indicated that type of parenting have an impact on children's self-esteem. These effects include showing poor social skills. Key informants reviewed

that authoritarian parenting style lead children to become rebellious and adopt problematic behavior, due to more than power exercised on children by parents.

One of the key informants said *“such pressure can lead sleep deprivation, eating disorder and low self-esteem”*

Majority of the respondents were in support of most of the streets kids’ who have run away from home into the streets as a result of negative parenting. Most children who are in the streets have faced many hardships at home. This was in support of the key informants who mentioned that majority of the parents used corporal punishment as a way of treating their children and those children ended up living in the streets in trying to escape this abuse.

One of the respondents said *“most of the streets kids have permanent marks, makes which shows that there were being beaten by their parents so they escape and live in the streets”*.

Findings from focused group indicated that authoritarian parents display low level of engagement and trust towards their children. Moreover authoritarian had negative side effects that most of the respondents revised that these children are aggressive can be socially inept, shy and cannot make their own decisions. This was also concurred by the key informants who revealed that the strictest form of authoritarian parenting is associated with negative effects in children due to lack of trust towards their children.

One of the key informants mentioned that *“most of the parents when their children bought things they want to see receipts so that they will know the exact amount the thing have costed.”*

Generally the majority was of the view that, corporal punishment have a positive impact on children capability to identify their talents and abilities. Key informants supported that, this is

indicated by the high number of physical abuse cases. Corporal punishment can result positively as when a child have been beaten by his or her parents that child is less likely to repeat that mistake. Corporal punishment can help child to redeem poor decisions and teach them structure and discipline.

One of the key informants alluded that *"spear they road spoil the child"*.

#### **4:4 ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TOWARDS NEGATIVE PARENTING**

Most of the responded were not in support of certain cultures that allows parents having sexual relations they viewed it as a way that is causing infections among people and breaking of certain taboos like incest. Moreover key informants were of the same view that do not support certain cultures to allow parents having sexual relations, though this is being practiced as it is being evidenced by the increase in unwanted pregnancies and abortions.

One of the key informants alluded that *"it will always be done"*.

Majority of the responded highlighted that, they do not support childhood marriages. Key informants also agree that they do not support early childhood marriage, even though children's still practice it, taking into consideration the rising numbers of child marriage in this Covid era it's double any other years yet they are policies to protect the girl child. One of the key informants even went further to say they is a rise number in child marriages.

One of the key informants mentioned that *"unoona mwana akatobereka mwana wakewo meaning you would see a child carrying another child"*.

Most of the respondents, report their neighbor to the police after discovering that he or she is sexually abusing his or her children. Most neighbors have been abusing their children for a quiet

long time and neighbors were afraid to report because they do not want to create enmity but through awareness campaign by (NGOS ) like National Aids Council (NAC) they had learnt to report abuse cases. This concurred with the key informants who mentioned the rise number of reported cases of sexual abuse by neighbors.

One of the key informants mentioned that *"it is through education that a person learnt some of the things which can be applied in life."*

Majority of the respondents do not deprive their children rights as a punishment form. Depriving their children rights, parents sees it as a way of punishment them so that they will change and worse. They sees it as a form of negative parenting. This was also in support of the key informants who do not supports depriving children's rights, they see it as a way of negative parenting.

One of the respondents said *"depriving children rights is not a way of teaching them good morals"*.

Most respondents disagree on the notion of depriving a divorced spouse the chance to be involved in children's live. Children whose parents are divorced, the one living with the child mostly do not allow the child to see his or her biological father or mother. They viewed it as a way of trying to gain their children back. This was also supported by the key informants who mentioned that thus why most of the divorced couple went for custody. Majority of the parents do this because even when they lose the case in the Court they will be granted permission to see their children.

One of the respondents who was in support of the key informants said " *most of the divorced partners want to use their children as a way of uniting with each other, thus why majority of the parents discourages it*".

Most respondents were of the view that, they take into consideration their children's opinion. Child's best interest should always be the primary consideration in all matters regarding them. Children opinion was mostly considered on married again cases if a child agree with the opinion parents consider it. The key informants were in agreement of that, as this was supported high rate in remarrying. The increase in unemployment and poverty is another reason which forces parents to take their children opinion as this was mentioned from the focus group.

One respondent had this to say " *shuwiro inenge iripo asi mari meaning have a desire but no money*".

#### **4:5 DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS**

The major theme which comes out of this study was that most parents find opportunities to complement their children after a good performance. More so, majority of the parents indicated that when their children perform well they reward them as a way of complimenting their children. This is similar to a research carried out by A Bandura, (1977) he postulates that parenting use the principles of behaviorism in ways that improve positive behavior and decrease unwanted behavior. The overall results showed that there is indeed for a positive parenting in parents to complimenting their children because, it would make them feel recognized and continue to do well so that they will be complimented again. Complimenting children nurtures

confidence and sense of self, by praising them you are showing your child on how to talk and think positively about themselves.

Most of the respondents from focus group discussions proved that, parents do not pay much attention to the behaviors which they dislike from their children. Majority of the children are at probation centers some even went to Pre-trial Diversion those who have committed pretty crimes due, to the fact that parents do not pay closer attention to their children. Moreover some of the children are taken for Victim Friendly Unit (VFU) personality and these helps to consolidate their self-respect. The perceptions by the respondents echoed similar sentiments with the respondents in a study by Muchabaiwa, (2019) who perceive that in Zimbabwe district parents generally think that being too lenient to their children is a gesture of good parenting. Nevertheless, this is killing the children because they end up engaging in bad behaviors due to less monitoring of the parents.

Moving on the second objective was to find out, effects of parenting methods used by most parents.

The researcher understood attributes and behaviors presented by grownups in the society are as a result of the parenting type experienced by the child when he or she was growing up. Parenting type is the one that mold the behavior of the child, according to Baez, (2002) authoritarian parents' exhibit low responsiveness and they are highly demanding. In this style of parenting, parents emphasize on conformity and obedience and thus expect that they are obeyed without explanation in a less warm environment. In continuation he finds out that authoritarian parenting has deep connection with more negative behavioral outcomes. This was also inline to Baez, (2002) who pointed out that authoritarian parenting style expect the child to adhere or follow the strict rules established by the parents. Failure to follow the rules will result in punishment. Usually, because the parents have ordered, it must be done without explanations and questions. On the other hand,

authoritative parents establish rules and guidelines that their children are expected to follow. However, this parenting style is much more democratic, parents with this style are responsive and ready to listen and cooperate.

Furthermore from the findings of this study, larger proportion of the respondents indicated that ignorance in parenting have an impact in parenting behavior. They do not know how to discipline them, focus group were in support of that ignorant in parenting have an impact in parenting behavior. Moreover, parents do not know how to talk to their children and how to identify their talents and abilities. This was in line with Moitra and Mukherjee (2015) who posit children are observed as more independent, outward looking and creative. They see their children as individuals who are now able to think for themselves, forgetting that for a child to achieve well he or she must be guided in a way you want him or her to be. When a child is not nurtured well he or she will be a threat to a society due to the fact that he or she does not know the values of a society, sometimes might even break them due to ignorance.

Majority of the responded highlighted that, they do not support early childhood marriages. Childhood marriages though it's not in support of but it still being practiced. The researcher discovered that in Marondera district they is a rise number in child marriages due to the cultural beliefs, those their parents do not support child marriages but some churches do like Jowani Marange. Families that goes to those churches are the same families that have their children practicing child marriages. This findings confirms of Talib, Abdullah and Mansor (2011) argue that the family of a child is a socio-cultural-economic arrangement that has a significant influence on not only the behavior of the children, but also on the development of their

characters. The study concluded that cultural belief of a family must be considered in the family because, most parents do not allow certain behavior in their children but you would see that their beliefs in religion support that. Furthermore thus why they is an increasing rate of child marriages due to this issues left unattended.

The researcher also brought into light, that most responded were of the view that, they take into consideration their children's opinion. A child's best interest should always be the primary consideration in all matters regarding them. The first step for anyone working to protect children, should be listening to their needs, desires, and plans for the future. These findings concurs with the findings of Muchabaiwa, (2019) who perceive that in Zimbabwe district parents generally think that being too lenient to their children is a gesture of good parenting. Furthermore, this reduces the number of parents that face constant battle of trying to rein their children in for bringing attention to themselves for all of the wrong reasons. Therefore need to listen to children and consider their views was one of the key messages.

#### **4.6 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

This chapter presented the findings, discussed and analyzed the data. The research sought to explore community perceptions towards good parenting methods, effects of parenting methods used by most parents and the attitude of parents towards negative parenting its main limitation which were taken into consideration were also discussed.

## **CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents summary of the research findings. It also gives an account of recommendations on improving and enhancing the attitude of parents towards negative parenting. More so, the recommendations also highlighted areas of improvements to enable good parenting for parents. The recommendations will assist parent in coping up with the challenges they are facing as a result of their methods of parenting.

### **5.2 SUMMARY**

The research focused on attitude of parents towards negative parenting. The study was carried out in Marondera District. Chapter 1 of this document outlines an introduction of the document encompassing the aim of the study, problem statement, objectives, justification and limitations. More so, Chapter 2 comprises of the theoretical review which reviewed findings from other researches related to this one. The literature review was utilized in formulating the research tools for the study. The third chapter outlined the research methodology which laid out how the data was collected from the field. Data was collected from 68 respondents who were conveniently selected to the needs of the study and 20 key informants were chosen purposively. Focus groups and key informants were used as data collection tools. The objectives of the study were to explore community perceptions towards good parenting methods. The fourth chapter presents the research findings. The researcher found out that most parents find opportunities to complement their children after a good performance. More so, majority of the parents indicated that when their

children perform well they reward them as a way of complimenting their children and this motivates their children and those children continues to do well. The last chapter of this research comprises of the conclusions and recommendations drawn from the study. On assessing attitude of parents towards negative parenting, parents take into consideration their children's opinion. Child's best interest should always be considered additionally, there is an indispensable need for parents to be made part of the broad child protection policy in Zimbabwe to enable the existence of complementary synergies between all stakeholders. Additionally, there is need to move from child protection which is largely a reactive approach to child safeguarding, which is essentially a proactive approach to child welfare.

### **5:3 CONCLUSION**

From the research findings it can be deduced that attitude of parents towards negative parenting begins with an individual and can expand to others in the community. There is an indispensable need for implementation of programs and services that robustly and sustainably emboldens good parenting. This can be achieved through public-private-partnerships or systems strengthening, to ensure that all systems with a stake in parenting children play their part and complement each other's efforts as this will result in good parenting.

### **5:4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Parenting education should be provided to parents providing care to children so as to enable them to cope with good parenting.

The government should consider children's opinions as an important resource for child care and as such should work on effective social policies that are responsive to the challenges parents face in parenting.

Parents play an important role in parenting, special attention should be given to social integration parents, so that they may have improved access to information and social services so that they may easily get assistance.

The religious groups should also value children's rights, encouraging and empower them to find their talents and abilities.

There is limited research on attitude of parents towards negative parenting in Africa and in Zimbabwe as well, hence further research is greatly indispensable in order to have diverse views including ways of effectively empowering and inspiring good parenting. This will not only make good parenting effective, but its effectiveness will translate to improved conditions for good behaviors in the society.

#### **5:5 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

The chapter gives a synopsis of the research findings, recommendations made and conclusions. The recommendations included the need for parenting education, consideration of children's opinions, social integration of parents and the roles of religion in parenting and child care. From the research findings it can be deduced that attitude of parents towards negative parenting begins with an individual and can expand to others in the community. There is an indispensable need for implementation of programs and services that robustly and sustainably emboldens good parenting.

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**INTERVIEW GUIDE: CONSENT FORM**

My name is Glenda Sanganisa, a social work student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am undertaking this research titled: Attitude of parents towards negative parenting. I have seen it worthy to interview you for some information relating to the topic above. The purpose of the research is purely academic being done in partial fulfilment of my Bachelor of Science (Honors) Degree in Social Work. The interview will be at most 15 minutes long, and any reservations towards the length of the interview will be accommodated.

**ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Participation in this research is voluntary and you can withdraw from the interview if you are no longer feeling comfortable.

If you have read and understood the foregoing information and have had an opportunity to ask questions and clear off queries and if the questions have been asked to your satisfaction, then you can consent to voluntarily to be a participant in the study.

Your confidentiality will be duly respected.

No names will be required during this process for anonymity, your personal security and the security of your agency.

I, ..... do hereby approve to take part in the research.

Participant's Signature .....

Date .....

Interview's Signature.....

## **INDEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE**

TOPIC: AN EXPLORATION OF THE ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TOWARDS NEGATIVE PARENTING

### **SECTION A: To explore community perceptions towards good parenting methods.**

1. Do you find opportunities to compliment your children?
2. Parents do you draw much attention to the behaviors which you do not like seeing in your children.
3. Do you learn to observe talents and abilities in your children?
4. Does child's perception of mother and father creates the basic perception of other people.
5. Would you prioritize spending greater proportion of your time with your children instead of friends and colleagues?
6. Do you allow other people or neighbor to correct your children from bad behaviors?
7. Do you consider other people's compliments in regards to your children's behavior and how do you they take them.
8. Do you consider your language as a contributing factor to good parenting?
9. Due to the attitude of the parents do children overcome the difficulties faced in the process of adaptation to the society.

**SECTION B To assess the effects of parenting methods used by most parents.**

1. Does, parenting had a direct impact on children behavior, which affect their ability to realize their potential.
2. Are supporting parents crucial to national development.
3. Does, ignorance in parenting lead them towards unwanted damaging effects that ultimately create behavioral problems in children.
4. Why does most of the parents often discourage open communication and make strict control of their child's behavior.
5. Does type of parenting have an impact on children's self-esteem?
6. Do you believe that most of the streets kids run away from home into the streets as a result of negative parenting?
7. Do authoritarian parents display low level of engagement and trust toward their children?
8. Does corporate punishment have a positive impact on children capability to identify their talent and ability?

**SECTION C To examine the attitude of parents towards negative parenting**

1. Do you support early childhood marriages?

2. Do you report your neighbor to the police after discovering that he or she is sexually abusing his or her children?

3. Do you consider deprivation of education rights and children rights as a punishment form?

4. Do you agree with the notion of depriving a divorced spouse the chance to be involved in children's lives?

5. Do you take into consideration your children's opinion?

## **KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE**

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