Exploring Societal Attitudes towards Parents Raising Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) children in Daveyton

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Define tomorrow.
Overview of the presentation

1. Introduction
2. Background of study
3. Methodology
4. Findings and Discussion
5. Conclusion
6. Limitations and Recommendations
Background of the study

• Discrimination, prejudice, abuse, anti-gay violent crimes and stigmatization (https://lgbt.wikia.com/wiki.societal_attitude)

• Growing support towards the members of the LGBTI community ranging from parental support, non-governmental organization which advocates for the rights of the LGBTI community.

• This study will explore the attitudes of the members of the Daveyton community towards these parents and looks at ways to form support groups for them.
Problem Statement

• Parents, just like their children, experienced a coming out process. Kircher & Ahlijah (2011)

• There are shared societal attitudes and violent crimes towards parents of LGBTI children.

Research Question

• **Main research question:**
  What are the societal attitudes towards parents raising LGBTI children in Daveyton?

• **Sub-questions**
  • How does society react and treat LGBTI children?
  • How does society feel about their children being LGBTI?
The Aim of the Study

**Aim:** The current study seeks to explore societal attitudes towards parents raising LGBTI children in the community of Daveyton.

Research Objectives

- Explore the attitudes of the society towards the parents raising LGBTI children
- To learn about societies experiences & feelings towards the LGBTI children
Contribution of the study

• It will contribute to the literature existing and open grounds for more research

• Raising awareness

• Support groups
• Research studies has proven that most individuals who openly express their sexuality and those belonging to groups, such the LGBTI community are often subjected to discriminatory behavior (Bellini, 2012; Berman & Robinson, 2010).

• Society does not fully embrace the value of diversity in its various dimensions.-(S. Sithole: 2015).

• Barely any work has been done to gather and analyse the views of society regarding their attitudes towards parents raising homosexual children in South Africa (Neville Gabriel; 2016)
Theoretical application

BRONFENBRENNER’S ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS THEORY &
THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIVIST THEORY

- Attitudes of society in general
- Policies, NGO’s, lawyers
- Interpersonal relationships (attitudes of Daveyton + parents raising LGBTI)
- Family (parents raising LGBTI children, church, peers, school, health services; family boundaries, open, closed-entropy/negentropy)
Theoretical application

- Social constructs are flexible and not rigid; they can be shifted to form societal ideas.
- Daveyton perception may shift to accommodate sexual diversity.
METHODOLOGY

• Research design
  • Exploratory design, Qualitative

• Research paradigm
  • Interpretivist/ constructivists

• Procedures of collecting data:
  • Sampling: Purposive
  • Data collection: Semi Structured interviews
  • Data analysis: Thematic
  • Trustworthiness of data: transcriptions

• Ethical consideration
  • Informed consent
  • Confidentiality
  • Limitations and risks which may be involved
  • Right to withdraw
Findings and discussion

Societal Attitudes:
According to the responses of the participants it became clear that the participants have negative attitudes towards parents raising LGBTI children in Dayveton and not accepting them.

• **Participant 2**: believes that it is the failure on the parent’s side that the children turn out to be homosexuals—“I am not in support of homosexuality to start with, which means parents should show their children the way of the Lord. I believe God did not create anyone to be homosexual”

• **Participant 3**: still thinks the way is heterosexuality and that parents that are heterosexuals should give birth to heterosexual children - ‘I do not understand how a child raised by a mother and the father living in the same household can turn out gay.’

• In their defense **participant 1 & 2**: use religion as their base of rejecting the LGBTI children—‘Lesbians and gays are a sin in as much as adultery, murder and fornication. They are all sexual immoralities.’
Personal Interactions
The participants believed that avoiding or correcting these children can assist them in changing to be the heterosexuals. Participant 2: ‘I avoid engaging on a personal’ . Participant 1: “I will educate them about their value system and guide them I will also find professional help for someone to help them.”

Some participants expressed the need of more education to help in teaching them about the dominant heterosexual value system yet at the same time they all allude to the fact that they treat them as normal children. Participant 1: “I will also read on more resources books on gays and lesbians” participant 3: “I treat them normal like normal human beings”

The systems theory on cybernetics of cybernetics on reality argues that perception is a process of construction; we invent the environment in which we find our self as we perceive/construct it. Each person is seen as being able to create their own reality and thus each person would have a different reality from the next person based on each other’s unique mixture of experiences. Becvar & Becvar (2006)
Findings and discussion

Personal Feelings:

When asked about their feelings on if one of their children would be LGBTI all participants showed that they will not fully accept their sexuality.

• **Participant 1 says, “the devil would be challenging him”**
• **Participant 2 believes, “It will never happen by the grace of God. I am from a school of thought that does not believe in homosexual”**
• **Participant 3 expresses, “I will be deeply hurt”**

• All these participants showed how much of education is still needed in the community of Daveyton on issues of sexual diversity. Because of their unaccepting behavior this may harm their children and cause disturbance in the family harmony and relationships.

• **Theory of change under the systems theory argues that change seems to be illogical or paradoxical when considered from its current framework with its current rules, if rules are changed the way we view the “perceived problem “changes and hence our perception is changed , new behavioral alternatives become possible in the process. Becvar & Becvar. (2006)**
Conclusion

- In the findings of the study some respondents were clear in accusing the parents of not raising their children in the right way.

- The community holds strong views that the only accepted sexual orientation is heterosexuality

  - Homosexuality is as natural as heterosexuality.
  - Homosexuality is an inborn nature
  - Homosexuals should come out of the closet - and live their desired life style. They should be proud not ashamed to pursue homosexual relationships
Limitations and Recommendations

Limitations:
• Result cannot be generalized,
• Sample may not represent what the other population thinks
• The current study is a case study and few participants were included it is still a working progress.

Recommendations:
• Education on sexual diversity - stereotypes and discrimination.
• Support group for parents raising LGBTI children in Daveyton
• A need for social movement


Jan C. Kircher, Ph.D. and April Ahlijah, 2011. Developing an Understanding of the Experiences of Parents Whose Child Has Come Out of the Closet. Pittsburgh, PA


Dankie

Ngiyathokoza

Ke a leboha

Siyabonga

Thank you

Inkomu Ndo livhuwa / Ro livhuwa

Enkosi

Ngiyabonga

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Define tomorrow.