

**A PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF PARENTAL  
BEREAVEMENT IN AFRICAN ADOLESCENTS**

by

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## DECLARATION

I declare that the “**A PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF PARENTAL BEREAVEMENT IN AFRICAN ADOLESCENTS**” is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

I further declare that I have not previously submitted this work, or part of it, for examination at Unisa for another qualification or at any other higher education institution.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study focuses on the emotional experiences of parental bereavement of African adolescents who live in a rural environment. Findings revealed that the loss of a parent is very devastating for African adolescents. The adolescents received inadequate assistance from family, peers, community members or educators. It is essential after this study to uncover ways in which these adolescents could be assisted to cope with the loss of a parent who had been providing love, care, financial and material support, as well as safety and security.

To gather data the researcher drew meaning from eight participants' lived experiences from transcriptions of interviews with the participants. The participants, seven girls and one boy, were adolescents between the ages of twelve and fifteen years, who had lost their fathers.

This study recommended that educators be equipped to take a major role in dealing with children in bereavement, since there are no educational psychologists or other professionals based in the school or neighbourhood. The community needs to be made aware of the plight of bereaved adolescents and should be introduced into giving positive and constructive assistance to these young people.

Key words: Adolescence, bereavement, grief, mourning, rituals, educator's role in bereavement, school's role in bereavement.