



UMnyango WezeMfundo
Department of Education

Lefapha la Thuto
Departement van Onderwys

Date:	3 June 2006
Name of Researcher:	Kholofelo Charlotte Motha
	Silverton
	0184
Telephone Number:	(012) 342 7711
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Research Topic:	The relationship between education quality policies and the lived experiences of orphaned learners
Number and type of schools:	1 Primary School
District/s/HO	Tshwane South

Re: Approval in Respect of Request to Conduct Research

This letter serves to indicate that approval is hereby granted to the above-mentioned researcher to proceed with research in respect of the study indicated above. The onus rests with the researcher to negotiate appropriate and relevant time schedules with the school/s and/or offices involved to conduct the research. A separate copy of this letter must be presented to both the School (both Principal and SGB) and the District/Head Office Senior Manager confirming that permission has been granted for the research to be conducted.

Permission has been granted to proceed with the above study subject to the conditions listed below being met, and may be withdrawn should any of these conditions be flouted:

1. *The District/Head Office Senior Manager/s concerned must be presented with a copy of this letter that would indicate that the said researcher/s has/have been granted permission from the Gauteng Department of Education to conduct the research study.*
2. *The District/Head Office Senior Manager/s must be approached separately, and in writing, for permission to involve District/Head Office Officials in the project.*
3. *A copy of this letter must be forwarded to the school principal and the chairperson of the School Governing Body (SGB) that would indicate that the researcher/s have been granted permission from the Gauteng Department of Education to conduct the research study.*

Director: Knowledge Management and Research

Room 525, 111 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, 2001 P.O.Box 7710, Johannesburg, 2000

Tel: (011) 355-0488 Fax: (011) 355-0286



4. ***A letter / document that outlines the purpose of the research and the anticipated outcomes of such research must be made available to the principals, SGBs and District/Head Office Senior Managers of the schools and districts/offices concerned, respectively.***
5. ***The Researcher will make every effort obtain the goodwill and co-operation of all the GDE officials, principals, and chairpersons of the SGBs, teachers and learners involved. Persons who offer their co-operation will not receive additional remuneration from the Department while those that opt not to participate will not be penalised in any way.***
6. ***Research may only be conducted after school hours so that the normal school programme is not interrupted. The Principal (if at a school) and/or Director (if at a district/head office) must be consulted about an appropriate time when the researcher/s may carry out their research at the sites that they manage.***
7. ***Research may only commence from the second week of February and must be concluded before the beginning of the last quarter of the academic year.***
8. ***Items 6 and 7 will not apply to any research effort being undertaken on behalf of the GDE. Such research will have been commissioned and be paid for by the Gauteng Department of Education.***
9. ***It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain written parental consent of all learners that are expected to participate in the study.***
10. ***The researcher is responsible for supplying and utilising his/her own research resources, such as stationery, photocopies, transport, faxes and telephones and should not depend on the goodwill of the institutions and/or the offices visited for supplying such resources.***
11. ***The names of the GDE officials, schools, principals, parents, teachers and learners that participate in the study may not appear in the research report without the written consent of each of these individuals and/or organisations.***
12. ***On completion of the study the researcher must supply the Director: Knowledge Management & Research with one Hard Cover bound and one Ring bound copy of the final, approved research report. The researcher would also provide the said manager with an electronic copy of the research abstract/summary and/or annotation.***
13. ***The researcher may be expected to provide short presentations on the purpose, findings and recommendations of his/her research to both GDE officials and the schools concerned.***
14. ***Should the researcher have been involved with research at a school and/or a district/head office level, the Director concerned must also be supplied with a brief summary of the purpose, findings and recommendations of the research study.***

The Gauteng Department of Education wishes you well in this important undertaking and looks forward to examining the findings of your research study.

Kind regards

Pp Nomvula Ubisi
Tom Waspe
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

The contents of this letter has been read and understood by the researcher.	
Signature of Researcher:	
Date:	



Appendix B: Informed Consent Form handed to the learners

Faculty of Education/Fakulteit Opvoedkunde
Department of Education Management and Policy
Studies/Departement Onderwysbestuur en Beleidstudies
Enquiries: Prof Jan Nieuwenhuis
Tel: 012 4202842

Dear Learner

Research Title: The relationship between education quality policies and the lived experiences of orphaned learners

Researcher: Ms K.C Motha

Supervisor: Prof FJ Nieuwenhuis

I am doing research about how orphaned learners experience schooling. In this research I will be asking you to tell me a story about yourself and asking you questions based on your story. I will ask you additional questions to help me better understand your story. The reason I want you to talk about yourselves in relation to your experience of schooling will help me better understand your specific needs pertaining to schooling.

If you want to be part of my research you will spend time with me answering some questions. If you do not want to take part in telling me your story and answering questions I will not be upset or be disappointed. Know that whatever we talk about will be kept private, meaning no one, not even your teachers, other learners or someone in your family will know what we talked about. I will not even use your name in my research report.

If you want to take part in this research but later change your mind, you are most welcome to tell me so and I will not be upset with you because I will not force you to do something that you don't want to do. If you agree, during my conversations with you, I would like to use a tape recorder to record our conversations.

(a) If you agree to be part of this research, please write your name and date below:

Name of learner : _____ Date _____

Name of researcher _____ Signature _____ Date _____

(b) If you agree to having our conversations tape recorded please write your name and date below:

Name of learner : _____ Date _____

Name of researcher _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Appendix C: Researcher's personal narrative

I was raised in a family consisting of my mother, grandparents, uncle, two unmarried aunts and their children, in a small four roomed house with kitchen, dining room and two bedrooms. My grandparents used one bedroom and the other one I shared with my mother, two aunts and their children. My uncle slept in the dining room and my other cousin in the kitchen. We were crammed in one small house but it was so much because my one aunt (who is the teacher at the school) used to tell me African tales. My granny and I were very close. It was like she was my biological mother. She was very strict and believed in disciplining children but now I am grateful to her because her strictness made me who I am today.

She also supported me in my studies. For example when I was writing my matric exams, she would wake me up in the morning so that I could study. She would bring me tea while I was studying and made sure that during exam times I do not watch television.

The things I learnt from her, I share with my children. Some of the cultural practices I share with my children. After I got married, I retained a close relationship with my granny, I would share with my granny everything that was happening in my marriage. I used to phone her each morning when I got to work and again at night. Then I shared a moment when my granny got very sick and admitted to hospital. Each morning when I woke, the first thing on my mind was to go to hospital to be with her. I did not want to think that she would die because that would devastate me. My granny did not stay long in hospital and she died. She died on my wedding anniversary and each year on this day I would remember her and cry. It took me three years to come to terms with my loss. I blamed my aunt who took her to hospital because I believed that if it were not of her my granny would not have been operated and she would still be alive. It happened that one day I told my other aunt how I felt about my granny death and she said something which helped me with my grief. She said that before my granny left for hospital, she told them that she was going to be completely healed and never sick again and now she is healed in a way she knew that she would not return home.

I remember at one time telling my granny that I don't know what I would do if she were to die and she said that God will give me another friend.



Appendix D: Samples of the learners' written stories (Pages 186-188)



Dear Learner

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Researcher: Ms K.C Motha

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(a) If you agree to be part of this research, please write your name and date below:

Name of learner : _____ Date _____

Name of researcher _____ Signature _____ Date _____

(b) If you agree to having our conversations tape recorded please write your name and date below:

Name of learner : _____ Date _____

Name of researcher _____ Signature _____ Date _____



GUARDIAN CONSENT FOR LEARNER PARTICIPATION

I, _____ (your name) give consent that
_____ (child's name) may participate in the research stated in
the attached letter. I have made this decision based on the information I have read in the Information
Consent Letter and as explained to me by the researcher.

In understand that:

the child will participate in interviews with the researcher and that the interviews may be recorded if
the child agrees to be tape recorded;

the child's participation is voluntary and he/she may withdraw from participation at any stage during
the research process;

the researcher will take all reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of the child and that she will
not identify the child in her research report or any publication related to the research.

By signing this consent form I confirm that I have read the contents of this form and that the research has
been explained to the above mentioned child.

Guardian's signature _____ Date _____

Researcher's signature _____ Date _____

The children may reveal in their stories issues that may upset them, in which case I will bring them in contact
with a person that can support them.

Appendix C: Researcher's personal narrative

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I remember at one time telling my granny that I don't know what I would do if she were to die and she said that God will give me another friend.



one day I was with my father and I told him that stop smoking and he dint listen me and I leave him smoking one day my father was sick and my heart was broken and my father go to ^{the} hospital and I go to the hospital when I came up my father was crying and my mother and one day my grandmother told us that our father is dead and I was so sad I was crying and my brother told me that he is angry and I said lets go to sleep and that night I was dreaming with him and he told me that I must look after my self and I say I will my mother told me that stop worrying you self god took him is life one day we will follow him and I say main please dont leave me alone and she said I wont do that to you your brothers and I said is okay and then my mother start to sick and one day he had a stroke at night and at the morning my brother told me that we must call ambulance and I said yes that will be okay and my father take my mother to god and at night the phone rings told us my mother is dead. I was so sad and I realised that is the end of life and I was so sad my fathers name was Gordon my mothers name is Gladys and now we stay with my grand mother and my grand mother work hard to support us and I dont want to lose her and my dreams are that my mother and my father came to me last night and told me that everything is okay and I say what are you talking about and I wake up and



I say that what is it that has the end of the story. My wishes is that I must go to America and go with fancy cars that's my dream to protect my family when I grow up and to protect my children that is my wishes. I am in grade 5⁶ room 42 at 19 June 1995 I was born, and my Birthday came on June 2006 I will be ~~to~~ 11 years old.



I am 11 years old I am in Grade 4.

I am a boy

When I am Grade 1 I LIKE TO PLAY SOCCER.

in 2004 my mother was ~~dead~~ and my mother was love me.
Now my mother is ~~dead~~.

But my father is not ~~dead~~ and my father love me.
and my grandmother is ~~dead~~.

My grandfather was sick I ~~don't~~ now is better.

Now I stay with my uncle and my brother's sister.

With my party I was happy I am not sad

and my family was happy so now I am

happy

by.

Appendix E: Samples of interviews with the learners

Learner: 1

Researcher: Thapelo you wrote that when you were in grade 1 you liked soccer.

Learner: Yes, I used to play soccer

Researcher: So, don't you like it now?

Learner: Our coach said I should get soccer boots but I could not get them. At homes they said they don't have money to buy me boots

Researcher : You also said that your mom died in 2004. What things did your mom taught you, that you won't forget?

Learner: She told us not to go about at night we should not play in the street at night

Researcher : Were you close to you mom?

Learner : I loved my mom

Researcher : What did you like about her?

Learner: She used to take good care of me. When she had money she would buy us what we need she would buy food

Researcher : Who takes care of you ?

Learner: It was my granny but she died, the following year [2005] she was sick she was taken to Kalafong. She died in hospital. We lived with my uncle who is blind and my granny's two children and my grandfather, my sister and my aunt (she moved from Mamelodi to come and stay with us)

Researcher : Now who is taking care of you?

Learner : My uncle, he is blind

Researcher: Does he pay for school fees?

Learner : We are in heartbeat.

Researcher: What is Heartbeat?

Learner: Heartbeat helps people like us and we don't have to pay school fees. Heartbeat brings papers to the school and at school they know who should not pay school fees. Month end they give us groceries. They used to come every to school to come and see us but now they come sometimes

Researcher : Who helps you with school work (e.g. homework?)

Learner: My uncle or my sister she will like help me with information such as who is the president of South Africa



Researcher: What do you do when you get home after school?

Learner: I wash my socks and shirt

Researcher: What do you do in the morning before you come to school?

Learner : We heat water on the stove, wash and get to school?

Researcher: What about lunch box?

Learner: Yes, they make us lunch or give us R2.00 each for me and my brother and my uncle when he has money he would buy us things to make lunch

Researcher: Oh, you're not on the feeding scheme

Learner : Oh RDP? We used to get it, that's the time when we were not getting anything, but when my uncle had money he would give us lunch money

Researcher : What is this RDP?

Learner: Food you get at school

Researcher : Why do call it RDP

Learner : We just know it to be RDP

Researcher : You said you father is alive

Learner: My dad used to live with us but he went away. He used to be with my mom but they separated. He used to buy us what we need.

Researcher: Does he still take care of you?

Learner: No, he doesn't care about us because at times when I go to him I don't find him , sometimes he will tell me to go back home he does not have money

Researcher : How do you perform in class?

Learner : Things are fine now. But I failed last year. I was not serious with my school work

Researcher: Do you have friends?

Learner: Lots

Researcher: What do you do with your friends?

Learner : We play sometimes we read for other children in the lower grade

Researcher : What do you wish for?

Learner: I wish at home we had money for clothes and food

Researcher: Okay, thanks, I will come and see you again

Learner: 2

Researcher: Did you do start your grade 1 at this school?



Learner: No, at Makgatho school, here it is Zulu and Sotho and at Makgatho it is Sotho. We did not know that this school offers Sotho too. This is my first year at this school.

Researcher : How do you cope with school work?

Learner: If I don't understand something I ask my friend

Researcher: Are there any subjects that you are battling with?

Learner: Yes, I can't read

Researcher: What do you mean?

Learner : Like studying, I have stopped playing now, I sit in the bedroom and my sister teaches us. We wrote a test and I failed English and passed Afrikaans and other subjects. Afrikaans I got 50 out of 100.

Researcher : So things are going well at school

Learner: Yes, you know I did not enjoy the past year

Researcher : Why?

Learner : My mom died on the 31st of December 2005

Researcher: Can you tell me about your mom before she died?

Learner: It was nice she used to buy us clothes, cook for us that was before she went to train as a sangoma. She lived with us until she got sick and was told to go and train as a sangoma. My mother went to train as a sangoma , she go sick there and was badly treated by the sangoma (her teacher) she went to see another inyanga a stronger one and. She said to us my kids I want to go and see a stronger inyanga to tell me what is wrong with me. The inyanga told her that her aunt has bewitched her. We didn't know that this was happening about our mom our sister told us. My mother went to hospital, but we said mom don't go to hospital. She got very sick in hospital. She said to my sister I don't want to be buried in KwaNdebele. She died on 31 December 2005 in hospital.

Researcher : Who took care of your mom when she was sick?

Learner: My sister left school because my mom was sick. I was staying with my when I was told that my mom has passed on I cried and cried

Researcher: Who were you staying with before your mom died?

Learner: With my mom, my sister and my younger brother.

Researcher : Who used to buy you school uniform?

Learner: My mom bought us school uniform

Researcher : Was she working?

Learner: No, she got social grant, the school gave us uniform and she brought food

Researcher : Who helps you with homework when you are given homework?

Learner: I used to ask our mom for help and when she was home, but now I ask my sister



Researcher : Who takes care of you now?

Learner: My sister and the social workers at Heartbeat

Researcher : How do social workers help you?

Learner: They give us food and take us to buy us school shoes. The social workers bring us food on the 31st or 30th of each month. We are still waiting for the social grant. Our neighbour wanted to get the social grant on our behalf. Our neighbour has our birth certificates.

Researcher : Tell me Goodness about your friends, do you have friends at school?

Learner: I have friends at school

Researcher: Tell me, after school when you get home what do you do?

Learner: I do the dishes and my brother cleans the toilet. My sister cleans the house

Researcher : Who helps you with homework?

Learner: My sister

Learner 3

Researcher: Foustina, in your story you wrote that your mom died followed by your dad. Tell me about the things you remember about your mother and father

Learner: It was nice because she used to joke, she used to laugh a lot we would not get bored. They were planning to buy us a computer this year. Life used to be nice for the four of us. But now I get bored, I remember them a lot at times I see her face when I am sleeping and look up I see them together, my mother and father.

My father loved us the most because he used to buy us clothes; he used to buy groceries he used to do everything for us. I remember my father a lot when I see other children playing with dolls, my heart feels sore. When I see other children walking with their dads in time my heart feels sore.

Researcher: What is it that you've learnt from your mom ?

Learner: They gave us rules before they died. They said I should go out at night, when I get to high school I shouldn't be like other children who will go out with boys When I grow up I must look after myself, when I get married everything should be right they were planning to get married. I should take care of my brother and my brother should also take care of me. My father said to us when we die don't think you'll be alone there are people out there and they will take care of us and God will be with us

Researcher : Did they say anything about school?

Learner: They said I must not stop attending school because schooling in most cases My friends neh I will learn from my friends. But when I get to another school I should not follow what my friends say because most friends will lead you astray. My mother said school is more important than many other things. She said I must not leave school. I said I will not leave school even if I fail. She said I must study hard



Researcher: Do you think about your mom and dad when you are at school?

Learner: I don't think about them but there are times when I think about them and my teacher will call me and will ask why am I this quiet and I will tell her I am thinking about them and Mam will say I shouldn't think about them a lot because there 's work to be done. I will go sit down and my friends will play with me to help me forget.

My grandmother she said we must stop thinking about them a lot and concentrate on our books because if we continue thinking a lot about them we are going to fail. After the 10 days of cleansing ceremony, we stopped worrying about them and forgetting about them

Researcher : What helped you forget about your parents?

Learner: I don't know but I was to wear red and white beads, my uncle removed it and he said I there must take it somewhere. Yes, it helped me forget

Researcher : Who made you put on these beads?

Learner: Its' my uncle, my uncle is a traditional healer. They took it somewhere and made it forget because I could not eat

Researcher : Why could you not eat?

Learner : When I try to eat I just become full and I don't know what makes me full even when I play I feel tired at home they said when I feel tired I must rest

Researcher: Who is taking care of you now?

Learner: My granny

Researcher : Who helps you with homework?

Learner: Me and my brother we do homework he helps me with things that are difficult for me and if we battle we ask my uncle. Most of the time when I have an Afrikaans homework I ask him because where he works they use Afrikaans

Researcher : How old is your brother

Learner : He is 15

Researcher: In class, how do you cope with your school work?

Learner : Things are going fine. I do my homework and class work and I take notes.

Researcher: Tell me about your friends?

Learner: My friend, Portia lost her father and when I think about my parents her heart becomes sore. They feel sad and feel sorry for me. When I am sad if a person comes to me and say sorry, sorry I cry

Researcher: So what do they do to comfort you?

Learner: They will bring me a bottle of water and tell me not to worry. One day they said sorry and I cried. So they bring me water and tell me not to worry and play a game with me

Rsearcher : Tell me what do you do when you get home after school?



Learner: I clean, wash my school uniform and go to the library with my friends

Researcher : What do you do in the morning before you go to school?

Learner: I wash myself, make breakfast, my granny prepares my lunch

Researcher : Oh, you are not on a feeding scheme

Learner: No, these children come to school without having eaten because there is no bread. We don't laugh at them because we know that one day we won't have lunch, we feel sorry for them. When my shoes are torn my granny will get them fixed and I bring them to school to give to other children

Researcher : Your granny has really taught you well Okay thanks

Researcher : So, What is your wish?

Learner: I wish when I am a grown up we could as a family with my kids go on holiday to America, live in a big house, we should not live in an area where there are no thugs, I wish my parents will come back to life

Appendix F: Sample of coding of learner interview transcripts

Data	Codes	Reflection
<p>Learner 1 You also say that in 2004 your mom died It was on Christmas day, my mother drank water and went to sleep and the next morning we saw foam coming out of her mouth and she died.</p>	<p>Description of how his mother died</p>	<p>Witnessed the death of a parent (mother)</p>
<p>What things did she like to do? You see, I live with my other siblings</p>		<p>He avoids talking about his mom perhaps because of pain associated with the experience</p>
<p>Who is taking care of you? It was my granny but she died, the following year [2005] she was sick she was taken to Kalafong [name of hospital in Atteridgeville] she died in hospital. We lived with my uncle who is blind and my granny's two children and my grandfather, my sister and my aunt my aunt moved from Mamelodi to come and stay with us)</p>	<p>Experiences death of granny the following year, sickness Extended family Relatives offer support</p>	
<p>Now who is taking care of you? My uncle</p>	<p>Relative takes over the responsibility of a parent</p>	
<p>Is he able to pay for your school fees? We are in heartbeat. Heartbeat helps people like us and we don't have to pay school fees. Heartbeat brings papers to the school and at school they know who should not pay school fees. Month end they give us groceries. They used to come every to school to come and see us but now they come</p>	<p>Support from a non government organisation</p>	



sometimes		
<p>You said you father is alive</p> <p>My dad used to live with us but he went away. He used to be with my mom but they separated. He used to buy us what we need.</p>	Broken family	Although his father is still alive, he is regarded as an orphan because of the death of her mom (single parent).
<p>Does he still take care of you?</p> <p>No, he doesn't care about us because at times when I go to him I don't find him , sometimes he will tell me to go back home he does not have money</p>	Expresses feelings of rejection	He showed anger when he responded to the question
<p>Were you close to your mom?</p> <p>I loved my mom</p> <p>What did you like about her?</p> <p>She used to take good care of me> When she had money she would buy us what we need she would buy food</p>	<p>Emotional attachment</p> <p>Mom provided basic needs</p>	The fact that he mentions that the mother used to buy food shows that food as a basic need is important to him, which suggest that the needs of children from low income families are different from those of middle or high income groups
<p>Who helps you with school work (e.g. homework?)</p> <p>My uncle or my sister she will like help me with information such as who is the president of South Africa</p>	Family members assist with school work	
<p>What about lunch at school?</p> <p>Yes, they make us lunch or give us R2.00 each me and my brother and my uncle when he has money he would buy us things to make lunch</p> <p>Oh, you're not on the feeding scheme</p> <p>Oh RDP? We used to get it,</p>	<p>Family provides for lunch at school</p> <p>School feeding scheme</p>	It seems he partakes in



<p>that's the time when we were not getting anything, but when my uncle had money he would give us lunch money</p> <p>What is this RDP? Food you get at school</p> <p>Why do call it RDP We just know it to be RDP</p> <p>How was this RDP It was fine. When there is no bread and no money at home we have RDP</p>	<p>Feeding scheme. Satisfied with food provided by school</p>	<p>feeding scheme only when family cannot provide money or food. The term RDP for feeding scheme was very interesting to me. I still wish to find out how it came about</p>
<p>How are things in class? It is fine. But I failed last year. I was not serious with my school work</p>	<p>Acknowledges the reasons for failing at school</p>	
<p>What do you wish for? I wish at home we had money for clothes and food</p>	<p>Aspires for basic needs</p>	
<p>Learner 2 My mother went to train as a sangoma (traditional healer) she go sick there and was badly treated by the sangoma (her teacher) she went to see another inyanga a stronger one and. She said to us my kids I want to go and see a stronger inyanga to tell me what is wrong with me. The inyanga told her that her aunt has bewitched her. We didn't know that this was happening about our mom our sister told us.</p> <p>My mother went to hospital, but we said mom don't go to hospital. She got very sick in hospital; the hospital staff was also abusing her. They will hit her and my sister cried. She said to my sister I don't want to be buried in KwaNdebele. She died on 31 December 2005 in hospital.</p>	<p>Description of how mom got sick and died.</p> <p>Witchcraft, sickness and traditional healing</p> <p>Death</p>	<p>In African tradition when someone is sick and medical practitioners can't diagnose the problem. The person is then advised to go to a traditional healer, who will strongly</p>



		<p>recommend that one become a “sangoma” to be healed. They would say that it’s a calling from the ancestors which one cannot refuse. My aunt and two cousins became sangomas as a result. Sometimes people do not consult medical practitioners when they are sick and simply consult ‘sangomas’.</p>
<p>Tell me, before your mother died who were you staying with?</p> <p>With my mom, my sister and my younger brother. My sister left school because my mom was sick</p> <p>I was at my aunt’s place when I was told that my mom has passed on I cried and cried</p>	<p>Parent’s illness forces older sister to leave school</p> <p>Death and expresses emotions (pain)</p>	
<p>Tell me about the time when your mom was still alive, before she got sick?</p> <p>It was nice she used to buy us clothes, cook for us that was before she went to train as a sangoma. She lived with us until she got sick and was told to go and train as a sangoma</p>	<p>Parent used to provide basic needs.</p> <p>Sickness leads to training as “sangoma”</p>	
<p>Who used to buy you school uniform</p> <p>My mom bought us school uniform</p> <p>Was she working?</p> <p>No, she got social grant, the school gave us uniform and she brought food</p> <p>What about books?</p> <p>The school gave us books</p>	<p>Family lived on social grant</p> <p>School provides books and school uniform</p>	<p>The role of the school is increasingly changing</p>
<p>Your mom and sister used to</p>		



<p>help you with homework and your mom bought school uniform for you</p> <p>My sister used to work. She found the job when my mom started getting sick. She worked at Caltex, you know the filling station. When she got paid she will buy our groceries and buy my mom clothes.</p>	<p>Parent's illness forces older sister to look for job.</p> <p>Older sister becomes breadwinner, takes responsibility of a parent.</p>	
<p>So, she takes care of you (meaning sister). Yes and the social workers at Heartbeat</p> <p>How do social workers help you?</p> <p>They give us food and take us to buy us school shoes. We are still waiting for the social grant. Our neighbour wanted to get the social grant on our behalf, but we learnt that our school can apply for us.</p>	<p>Describes the added responsibility of social workers</p> <p>The new role of the school</p>	
<p>Are there any subjects that you are battling with?</p> <p>Yes, I can't read</p> <p>What do you mean?</p> <p>Like studying, I have stopped being playful now, I sit in the bedroom and my sister teaches us. We wrote a test and I failed English and passed Afrikaans and other subjects. Afrikaans I got 50 out of 100.</p>	<p>Battles with reading</p> <p>Older sister assumes role of parent</p>	
<p>You know I did not enjoy the past year</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>My mom died on the 31st of December 2005</p> <p>How is this year different from last year?</p> <p>No one is sick at home. My father died in the 1990s [she is not sure]</p> <p>Did he stay with you?</p> <p>Yes, often but my sister in grade 2 does not know our father</p>	<p>Reflecting on past year</p> <p>Not a good year because of death of mom</p> <p>Shows feelings about illness</p> <p>Absent father</p>	



<p>Learner 3 (This is what she wrote) One day I was with my father and I told him that he must stop smoking and he did not listen and I left him to smoke. One day my father was sick and my heart was broken and my father went to hospital. I went to see my dad in hospital my dad and mom were crying. One day my grandmother told us that our father is dead. I was so sad, I was crying, and my brother told me he was angry and I said let's go to sleep and that night I was dreaming about him (her dad) and he told me that I must look after myself and I said I will my mother told me to stop worrying yourself God took him it is life one day we will follow him and I say mom please don't leave me alone and she said I wont do that to you. My mother started to get sick and one day she had a stroke at night and in the morning my brother told me that we must call an ambulance and I said yes that will be okay and my father took my mother to God and at night the phone rang and they told us that my mother is dead. I was so sad and I realised that it is the end of life and I was so sad</p> <p>now we stay with my grandmother and my grandmother work hard to support us and I don't want to lose her and in my dreams my mother and father came to me last night and told me that everything is okay and I say what are you talking about and I wake up and I say what is it. My wish is to go to America and drive fancy cars that's my dream to protect my family when I grow up and to protect my children.</p>	<p>Concerned about father's smoking</p> <p>Illness and expresses feelings about her father's illness</p> <p>Witnessed both parents crying</p> <p>Death, feeling of sadness and brother anger</p> <p>Coping mechanism</p> <p>Fear of losing mother</p> <p>Mother's sickness</p> <p>Describes specific event about her mom</p> <p>Belief (way of coping with death)</p> <p>Sadness and feeling of hopelessness</p> <p>Granny takes over the role of a parent</p> <p>Fear of losing grandmother</p> <p>Dream about parents</p> <p>Desires to protect her family and children</p>	<p>As children they did not react the same way to sad news of their father's death</p> <p>Dream about parents are meant to reassure her that everything is fine.</p>
<p>You told your dad to stop</p>		



<p>smoking</p> <p>Yes, he did not listen to me. He started to get sick, he had tuberculosis. One day he went to hospital to Kalafong and when he got to hospital he stayed for... I don't know how many years and he went to another hospital .He carried on being sick and we would go and visit him One day they give him injection and when they tried to wake him up so he can eat he did not wake up. They phoned my grandmother and my grandmother phoned my mother. The following morning my mom told us.</p>	<p>Describes in detail events leading to father's death</p>	
<p>How did you feel when she told you that?</p> <p>I was so sad I couldn't eat. I could not speak properly when I tried to say something I couldn't say it right.</p> <p>My mother said I should stop worrying we also are going to follow him I said to her: Don't leave us me and my brother. She said she won't do that.</p>	<p>Feeling of sadness that it affected her appetite and her speech</p> <p>Form of coping with death</p>	
<p>One day my mother had stress she had a stroke. She fell on the floor and me and my brother tried to get her up and put her on the bed. The following day she went to hospital she stayed there for two days and on the third day, they told us she is dead.</p> <p>How do you know that she had stress?</p> <p>The doctor told us that the time she fell she had stress. She had stress because of my father my father was dead and they were planning to fix our house and get married. You see my mother was worried about things like this. When she was in hospital she was worried about who was going to take care of us.</p>	<p>Describes in detail events leading to mother's death</p> <p>Worry</p>	<p>What she feared most has happened</p>



<p>How did you feel after her death because you told her not to leave you?</p> <p>I felt as if I was not myself. I don't know but I was heart broken.</p>	<p>Expresses feelings about her mom's death</p>	
<p>After that they told us not to worry Who told you so?</p> <p>My grandmother she said we must stop thinking about them a lot and concentrate on our books because if we continue thinking a lot about them we are going to fail. After the 10 days of cleansing ceremony, we stopped worrying about them and forgetting about them Even now you don't think about them?</p> <p>I don't think about them a lot but there are times when I think about them When did they pass away? My father in February and my mother in April</p> <p>What year? 2006</p> <p>Oh this year and you are able to forget about them what helped you forget?</p> <p>I don't know but I was to wear red and white beads, my uncle removed it and he said they must take it somewhere (somewhere could be to a traditional healer). Yes, it helped me forget</p> <p>Who made you put on these beads</p> <p>Its' my uncle, my uncle is a traditional healer. They took it somewhere and made it forget because I could not eat</p>	<p>Another way of helping kids to try to cope with death (focus of school work)</p> <p>Coping with death</p> <p>Another way of helping the kids cope with death</p> <p>Traditional healing</p>	<p>There is a herb that Africans use called 'molebatsa' meaning something to make you forget. This helps one to forget about a nasty of</p>



		hurtful event
<p>Tell me about the time when your mom was alive? What do you remember about her?</p> <p>It was nice because she used to joke, she used to laugh a lot we would not get bored, they were planning to buy us a computer this year. Life used to be nice for the four of us. But now I get bored, I remember them a lot at times I see her face when I am sleeping and look up I see them together, my mother and father</p>	<p>Recalls good memories of her mom and family</p> <p>Life has changed for her. Misses both parents</p>	
<p>Tell me about your father</p> <p>My father loved us the most because he used to buy us clothes; he used to buy groceries he used to do everything for us. I remember my father a lot when I see other children playing with dolls, my heart feels sore, when I see other children walking with their dads in time my heart feels sore</p>	<p>Good memories of father</p> <p>Experience pain when anything reminds her to her relationship with her father. She misses her father</p>	
<p>What is it that you've learnt from your mom?</p> <p>I should take care of my brother and my brother should also take care of me. My father said to us when we die don't think you'll be alone there are people out there and they will take care of us and God will be with us</p>	<p>Believing in God and support from other people</p>	<p>It reminds me of this saying : "Motho ke motho ka batho" which literally translates " A person is a person because of other people</p>
<p>Did they say anything about schooling?</p> <p>My mother said school is more important than many other things. She said I must not leave school. I said I will not leave</p>	<p>Parent acknowledge the importance of schooling</p>	



<p>school even if I fail. She said I must study hard</p>		
<p>Who helps you with homework?</p> <p>Me and my brother we do homework he helps me with things that I difficult for me and if we battle we ask my uncle. Most of the time when I have an Afrikaans homework I ask him because where he works they use Afrikaans</p>	<p>Members of family get involved in children's schooling</p>	<p>This also shows how African families value education</p>
<p>When you are in class does it happen that you think about your parents?</p> <p>I don't think about them but there are times when I think about them and my teacher will call me and will ask why am I this quiet and I will tell her I am thinking about them and Mam will say I shouldn't think about them a lot because there 's work to be done. I will go sit down and my friends will play with me to help me forget</p> <p>Tell me how do you friends help you when you feel down let's say when you start thinking about your parents?</p> <p>They feel sad and feel sorry for me and Portia lost her father and when I think about my parents her heart becomes sore. When I am sad if a person comes to me and say sorry, sorry I cry</p> <p>So what do they do to comfort you?</p> <p>They will bring me a bottle of water and tell me not to worry. One day they said sorry and I cried. So they bring me water and tell me not to worry and play a game with me</p>	<p>Suspects witchcraft</p> <p>Teacher insensitive/uncaring</p> <p>Caring friends to help her cope with grief</p> <p>Friends share in pain because of similar experience</p> <p>Strategy used by children to help the other cope with</p>	<p>The teacher seems unsympathetic but perhaps she does not know how to deal with this situation in class.</p>



	pain	
<p>What is your wish?</p> <p>I wish when I am a grown up we could as a family with my kids go on holiday to America, live in a big house, we should not live in an area where there are no thugs, I wish my parents will come back to life</p>	<p>Sharing her aspirations. Issues of safety/security, going on holiday, bigger house and having parents</p>	
<p>Learner 4</p> <p>I want you to tell me your story about your life. You are now in grade 7, tell me about your life from grade 1, where did you start school and what happened tell me about your family</p> <p>I started school at St Annes, I lived with my mom and my siblings Joyce, Salaminah Johannes and myself we lived with our mom. Then my mom died in 2003 she was sick it our neighbours they did not get along well with her they made her Die</p> <p>Your neighbours made your mom to die? How?</p> <p>I don't what they did but my sister Maria got along well with them she used to sleep there (at neighbours house) and she left my mom's shoes there. I don't know what they did with those shoes but my mom put them on and she started having problems with her legs. She got sick and they took her to Kangala to my aunt . They took her to the doctors and she got better. Then she started getting sick again and she died, she died in hospital.</p>	<p>Sickness and death of mother Belief that witchcraft caused her mom illness and death</p>	
<p>So, when she was sick who took care of her?</p> <p>My sister took care of her we all</p>	<p>Children took care of sick</p>	



<p>took care of her</p> <p>How were you caring for her?</p> <p>When she wanted things we give it to her when she needed water we would give it to her, we took her to clinic and they would give her medicine and when we could not take care of her anymore my aunt came to fetch her took her to Kangala She took her to the doctors, they gave her medicine she took her medicine and got better. It was in December when she was about to come back home she got sick again I don't know what was wrong with her. They took her to hospital</p>	<p>mom</p> <p>Description of how children took care of sick mom</p> <p>Then relative (aunt) steps in to help</p>	
<p>Who took care of you when she was away?</p> <p>Our granny took care of us. But we were not staying with our granny she lived in extension 7 and we live in Mshengu (informal settlement in Saulsville). When we did not have maize, when we did not have anything we would phone</p>	<p>Granny takes over to provide for family</p>	
<p>So, who ensures that you eat and so on because you have two sisters who are in school and one is unemployed?</p> <p>We're on the Heartbeat programme</p> <p>So, what do they do (Heartbeat) They take care of us</p> <p>How do they take care of you? They give us food, there's someone visiting us at home and tells us to come on Thursday and get food at the office, we get food but now they don't give us food when you get a grant you stop to get food but you remain on the programme. They pay for us to go on trips like camps</p> <p>You said when you get a grant you don't get food from heartbeat</p>	<p>Support from Heartbeat</p> <p>Description of how Heartbeat programme works</p>	<p>Heartbeat is a community-based organisation. They focus on caring for orphaned and vulnerable children in their (children's) own homes and community.</p>



<p>No, when you get a grant you don't get all the food they give, You get like toilet soap, maize, rice baked beans and they pay for school trips and buy us food for the trip</p> <p>Say there's a school trip, do you have to go and tell them about the trip?</p> <p>Yes, like now we know that there is a trip on the 6th of October , we have taken forms to head-office to show that there's trip. If you have a sponsor they don't pay but if you don't they pay</p>		
<p>Can we talk about your mom?</p> <p>My mom used to take good care of us, when I came back from school, she made sure that I wash my school socks, I am neat, I used to attend school at St Ann's when I was in grade 1</p> <p>What is it that she taught you that you won't forget?</p> <p>At home she taught us that when a visitor walks in we should go and play outside and if it's night time we must go to our bedrooms and sit there so that we don't listen to adults when they speak</p>	<p>Mom's responsibility</p> <p>Teaching good manners</p>	<p>This is exactly what my granny taught me as a child. Children don't listen to adult conversation.</p>
<p>And now who helps you with your school work?</p> <p>My sister helps me and also at Heartbeat they help us, like if you have homework and your</p>	<p>Sibling and people at Heartbeat helps children with school work</p>	



<p>don't want to write it at home you go there and they help you</p>		
<p>Do you have friends at school? Yes Who are they? Lydia and Tumisho</p>		<p>Lydia is also an orphaned learner. What I have observed during my visits to the school is that orphans would often play or walk together.</p>
<p>Tell me when you complete grade 7 where will you go for your next grade?</p> <p>I wanted to go to Hofmeyer (this is a high school in Atteridgeville) but they say at Hofmeyer we have to pay school fees ourselves. You know that here at Phuthaditshaba I don't pay school fee, Heartbeat pays for us but at Hofmeyer your family has to pay they say don't accept Heartbeat thing</p> <p>So where will you go? I will go to Phatudi</p> <p>Oh, there you don't have to pay? In fact Heartbeat does not pay school fees but they get the school not to charge school fees so, at Hofmeyer they don't agree to this. My sister said I should go to Phatudi</p>	<p>Inability to pay school fees prevents learner from attending school of her choice</p> <p>Disparity among schools on the issue of school fees</p> <p>Role of heartbeat and school fees</p>	
<p>Okay, when you complete grade 12 what do you want to be?</p> <p>I want to be a nurse</p> <p>Why do you want to be a nurse? I want to help sick people, I want them to be well</p>	<p>Interest in the medical profession to eradicate illnesses</p>	
<p>Learner 5 My mother died and I went to live in Soshanguve TT section.</p>	<p>death</p>	
<p>they moved me and brought me to my granny. Now I have a problem everyday I think about my younger sister. They took her to my step father.</p>	<p>Relocation</p>	<p>After the death of a parent children are moved to other environments. The two kids who were</p>



		brought up together are now separated
They took her because my granny works and I go to school so who was going to take care of her. They took her to Lebotlwane	reason for separation	Because of a mother's death two sisters are raised in separate families
You know my granny is a traditional doctor she told me one day that her uncle was a traditional doctor he died and she told me that her uncle chose her to be a doctor.	Traditional healing	
You know my stepfather, one day he used to come where I live so one day I was sleeping my sister was at Lebotlwane my granny and grandfather have their own room and I have my own room so when my stepfather visited he would sleep in my room around 8 or 9 I like going to bed early my father started bothering me, he took off my T-shirt things like that	Child abuse	
So, my granny was visited by the ancestors and she saw this.	Belief in ancestors	Traditional healers communicate with their ancestors
my grandfather is a bad person, he almost killed my granny. He likes swearing and he will say my granny's muthis don't work. The day he gets sick..... He once kicked my granny on her left side and she turned red.	Abuse Belief in traditional medicine Abuse	The child is now brought up in a family where she witnesses woman abuse and she has also being subjected to similar abuse
Nomsa, tell me when your mother was still alive who were you living with We lived in Soshanguve it was me, my mother, father and my younger sister.	Before orphanhood	
Then what happened? What made you move from Soshanguve? You see my mother one day went to church she loved church. She locked the fridge because she sold ice blocks. It was me	Attributes of mother. Describes an event which led to the break up of her	



<p>my father and sister, then came one man and asked for cold water. My father said we can't get you water because the fridge is locked. Then came my father's family. You know my father's mother is a traditional doctor and my mother's mother is also a traditional doctor. So, my father's mother went to my mother's bedroom and sprinkle muthi in the room she didn't want my mother to live with my father. My mother's mother told her that there's muthi in the house because the ancestors are telling her. When my mother came back home we told her that my father's family was here. My father started argueing with my mother about the locked fridge So, my mother got very angry and she started packing her stuff When I went into their room I smelt something strange I moved out quickly. They wanted me dead and them my mother so that they are left with my sister</p> <p>So, who wanted you dead?</p> <p>At Lebotlwane at my father's family.</p>	<p>family</p> <p>Traditional doctors</p> <p>Belief in witchcraft</p> <p>Communication with ancestors</p> <p>Strong belief in witchcraft</p>	
<p>So, said your mother died, How did this happen?</p> <p>They [father's family] found my mother and father having an argument about the locked fridge. They took my father away in a car.. Because she was very angry she took our clothes out and gave some of the ice cubes to kids and she burnt the house. My mother phoned her friend and they went to Section AA in Soshanguve. Then my mother became sick</p>	<p>Continues to relate an event which led to the break up of her family.</p>	
<p>How did it happen she fell sick?</p> <p>Its stress, she had stress. The other day she had stroke and she couldn't speak My counsin's sister came and took my mother</p>	<p>Cause of mother's death</p>	



to hospital.		
<p>Who was taking care of you then ? (i.e when mother was in hospital)</p> <p>My mother's uncle's wife. We were used to living with them and one day I learnt that my mother has passed on and I started crying, I cried.</p> <p>Did she die in hospital Yes,</p>	<p>Relocation because of mother's illness</p> <p>Death, expression of emotions</p>	
<p>So she didn't return home</p> <p>Yes, I cried and cried and I realized that crying does not help. My mother was buried in Atterrdigeville. Then my sister was taken to Lebotlowane. She should have been here but because they could not afford to have us both here. They said I should stay with my granny in Atteridville and she should go to Lebotlwane</p>	<p>expression of emotions</p> <p>Another reason for separation of two sisters</p>	
<p>So where was your real father?</p> <p>I don't know him I had always known my stepfather. You see my stepfather's family did not like my mother. They said she won't live for more than 10 days.</p> <p>Who did they tell this to?</p> <p>They told my mother and yes, within ten days she was dead. My granny did not know that they killed her (mother) she knew afterwards and she said had she known before she (mother) was buried she would have applied muthi on her body so that they can die one after another.</p>	<p>Biological father unknown</p> <p>Relationship of mother and in-laws.</p> <p>Relationship of mother and in-laws.</p> <p>Use of traditional medicine to take revenge</p>	
<p>Now my stepfather is sick he doesn't come to our house You</p>	<p>Use of traditional medicine</p>	<p>The child learns</p>



<p>see my granny doesn't want to report a person to the police she used muthi to make him (stepfather) go mad. He is now mad his mother in Lebotlwane cannot help him</p>	<p>to take revenge</p>	<p>vengeance and belief in witchcraft from the granny</p> <p>The child was unashamed and proud to tell me that witchcraft works</p>
<p>So Nomsa who helps you with your school work?</p> <p>There's a girl next door, she attends school here she usually asks me if I have home work if I can manage on my own I do it but if I can't she helps me but when it comes to Afrikaans my granny helps me.</p>	<p>Neighbour helps with school work</p>	<p>Motho ke motho ka batho</p>
<p>You know my grandfather likes swearing at my granny and one day my granny will use muthi to make him mad. When my grandfather beats my grammy my heart feels sore I say to myself one day he is going to kill her and what's going to happen to me.</p>	<p>Belief in the use of witchcraft to avenge</p> <p>Abuse and fear of losing granny</p>	<p>Nomsa mentioned the incident of her grandfather beating her granny three times during the interview</p>
<p>I want my sister to come back home before she follows my mother.</p> <p>Why do you think so?</p> <p>Because my mother neh, she wishes my sister bad luck. Like if I were to go to Lebotlwane they must tell the ancestors that I'm going there. So they didn't take my sister to tell my mother that she (her sister) is going to live in Lebotlwane</p> <p>My sister was once sick they said she has a heart problem. They are trying to kill her but they can't they can't.</p> <p>Why do you say they can't?</p> <p>My granny works with this other</p>	<p>Fear of losing her sister</p> <p>Belief in the power of the ancestors and the importance of communicating with ancestors</p> <p>Belief that someone wants to kill her sister</p> <p>Belief in traditional practices</p>	<p>In the African culture, it is believed that when you relocate you must inform your ancestors so that they know where to find you.</p>

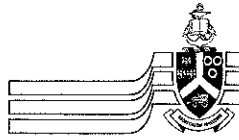


<p>traditional doctor. They are able to see what other people are doing using a mirror I don't know how they do this</p>		
<p>What disturbs you most in class?</p> <p>My mother when I think of her and the years we lived together What did she used to do that you miss?</p> <p>She used to buy me shoes, tell me stories Her photos if I start looking at them I would cry for two weeks, missing her. My sister is still small she does not know that my mother is dead.</p> <p>How old was she when your mother died?</p> <p>She was two years old. This year she will be three on the 3rd of December (2006).</p>	<p>Recalls good times with mom, accompanied by sadness/pain</p>	
<p>Nomsa what is your wish?</p> <p>To live with my younger sister and granny. I want my sister to come back home</p>	<p>Exclusion of grandfather Aspires to be reunited with sister</p>	



Appendix G: Follow-up interview questions with learners conducted at the learners' homes

1. Tell me what has happened with your schooling since I had conversations with you about your family and school.
2. How do you get to school every day? What time do you leave home and what time do you get to school?
3. What do you do each day after school before you go home? What time do you get home after school?
4. Tell me about what you do when you get home. I am interested to find out whether you have time for homework and whether members of your family help you with homework
5. Tell me about other people outside your family who help you with school work?
6. What do you like and dislike about school? Please explain
7. Have you stayed at home on certain days? For how long? Why?
8. What would make you want to go to school every day?



UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

DEGREE AND PROJECT

INVESTIGATOR(S)

DEPARTMENT

DATE CONSIDERED

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

CLEARANCE NUMBER :

EM08/10/01

PhD Education Management Law and Policy

The relationship between education quality policies and the lived experiences of orphaned learners.

Kholofelo Charlotte Motha

Educational Management and Policy Studies

12 November 2009

APPROVED

Please note:

For Masters applications, ethical clearance is valid for 2 years

For PhD applications, ethical clearance is valid for 3 years.

CHAIRPERSON OF ETHICS COMMITTEE

Dr S Bester

DATE

12 November 2009

CC

Prof J Nieuwenhuis
Ms J Beukes

This ethical clearance certificate is issued subject to the following conditions:

1. A signed personal declaration of responsibility
2. If the research question changes significantly so as to alter the nature of the study, a new application for ethical clearance must be submitted
3. It remains the students' responsibility to ensure that all the necessary forms for informed consent are kept for future queries.

Please quote the clearance number in all enquiries.