



**GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL WORKERS  
RENDERING SERVICES CONCERNING CHILD  
ABUSE**

by

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## Dedication

**This work is dedicated to my parents Sarah and the  
late John Nkuna and my child Tumelo.**

## Acknowledgements

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## Summary

### **GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL WORKERS RENDERING SERVICES**

### **CONCERNING CHILD ABUSE**

by

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Degree: Doctor Philosophiae in Social Work (D.Phil.)

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Child abuse is a problem, which occurs worldwide. This study focused on child abuse in the North West Province-Moretele District. There is lack of knowledge of the types, causes, symptoms, impact of child abuse and guidelines for social workers rendering services concerning child abuse. An exploratory research design was implemented using purposive sampling of 150 parents/caregivers whose children were abused during 1995-1999 and 14 social workers rendering services concerning child abuse.

The aim of this study was to formulate guidelines for social workers rendering services concerning child abuse. The following questions were asked to achieve the above aim:

- What are the types of child abuse that occur in the North West Province?
- What are the causes of child abuse?
- What are the symptoms of child abuse?
- What are the impacts of child abuse?
- What is the nature of social work services rendered in the North West Province?
- Which method and approaches are employed by social workers in their service rendering concerning child abuse?

The result of the study showed that the types of child abuse, which were experienced were physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect. Each type of child abuse has its own physical and behavioural symptoms. Child abuse is caused by various factors, which included both main and contributory causes. Child abuse has psychological, behavioural, cognitive and personality effects on the abused child.

Social work service rendering focused on identification, investigation, intervention and prevention.

From the research findings it became clear that social work methods employed by the social workers rendering services were social work with the individual, social work with the family and research were always employed. Social work with the group, social work with the community and an integration of these methods were never employed by the social workers, which pointed out a lack of proper service rendering.

The social work approaches employed by the social workers rendering services were problem solving and ego psychology. The social workers never employed behaviour modification and crisis intervention and cognitive restructuring were employed some of the time.

Guidelines for social workers rendering services concerning child abuse were formulated, focusing on the nature of child abuse and the nature of social work services concerning child abuse.

The following hypotheses were formulated for future research:

If parents are able to identify the symptoms of child abuse then the rate of child abuse will drop.

If parents are involved in social work service rendering concerning child abuse then child abuse can be prevented.

If guidelines for service rendering concerning child abuse are formulated for social workers and are being used properly, then their service rendering can improve.



## Opsomming

### **RIGLYNE VIR MAATSKAPLIKE WERK DIENSLEWERING TEN OPSIGTE VAN KINDERMISHANDELING**

deur

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Kindermishandeling is 'n probleem wat wêreldwyd voorkom. Hierdie studie het gefokus op die voorkoms van kindermishandeling in die Noord Wes Provinsie – Moretele Distrik. Die navorser het gevind dat daar 'n gebrek is aan kennis oor die tipes kindermishandeling, simptome, die impak van kindermishandeling en die riglyne vir maatskaplike werk dienslewering ten opsigte van kindermishandeling. Daar is van 'n verkennende navorsingsontwerp gebruik gemaak en 'n doelbewuste steekproef is geneem wat bestaan het uit 150 ouers/versorgers wie se kinders mishandel is gedurende 1995-1999, 14 Maatskaplike werkers is betrek wat dienste lewer ten opsigte van kindermishandeling.

Die doel van die studie was om riglyne saam te stel vir maatskaplike werk dienslewering ten opsigte van kindermishandeling. Die volgende vrae is gevra om hierdie doel te bereik:

- Wat is die tipes kindermishandeling wat voorkom in die Noord Wes Provinsie?
- Wat is die oorsake van kindermishandeling?
- Wat is die simptome van kindermishandeling?
- Wat is die impak van kindermishandeling?

- Wat is die aard van maatskaplike werk dienslewering in die Noord Wes Provinsie?
- Watter maatskaplike werk metodes en benaderings is aangewend deur die maatskaplike werkers in hulle dienslewering ten opsigte van kindermishandeling?

Uit die empiriese studie het dit geblyk dat fisiese mishandeling, seksuele mishandeling, emosionele mishandeling en verwaarlosing voorgekom het. By elke tipe mishandeling is fisiese- en gedragssimptome geïdentifiseer. Daar is ook gevind dat kindermishandeling veroorsaak word deur verskeie faktore nl: hoof - en bydraende faktore. Die kindermishandeling het 'n effek op die psigiese, fisiese gedrag, kognitiewe ontwikkeling en persoonlikheid van die mishandelde kind.

Die maatskaplike dienslewering het identifisering, ondersoeking, intervensie en voorkoming behels. Vanuit die navorsingsbevindinge het dit duidelik geblyk dat die maatskaplike werk metodes wat aangewend is deur die maatskaplike werkers maatskaplike werk met die individu en familie en navorsing was. Die navorser het egter bevind dat maatskaplike groepwerk en gemeenskapswerk en die integrering van hierdie metodes egter nooit deur die maatskaplike werkers aangewend is nie.

Die maatskaplike werk benaderings aangewend deur die maatskaplike werkers in hulle dienslewering was probleemoplossing en ego psigologie. Die maatskaplike werkers het egter nooit gedragsmodifikasie toegepas nie. Krisis intervensie en kognitiewe herstruksturing is soms toegepas.

Die navorser het riglyne vir maatskaplike dienslewering ten opsigte van kindermishandeling geformuleer deur te fokus op die aard van kindermishandeling en die aard van maatskaplike werk dienslewering.

Die volgende hipoteses is na aanleiding van hierdie studie saamgestel ten einde toekomstige navorsing te rig:



- Indien die ouers in staat is om die simptome van kindermishandeling te identifiseer, sal die voorkoms van kindermishandeling verminder kan word.
- Indien die ouers aktief betrokke raak by maatskaplike werk dienslewering ten opsigte van kindermishandeling, kan kindermishandeling voorkom word.
- Indien daar riglyne vir maatskaplike werk dienslewering ten opsigte van kindermishandeling geformuleer word en behoorlik toegepas word, kan die maatskaplike werk dienslewering verbeter.

## **Key terms**

Child

Black child

Child abuse

Caregiver

Types of child abuse

Causes of child abuse

Symptoms of child abuse

Impact of child abuse

Social worker

Social work guidelines

## **Sleutelsterme**

Kind

Swart kind

Kindermishandeling

Versorger

Tipes kindermishandeling

Oorsake van kindermishandeling

Simptome van kindermishandeling

Impak van kindermishandeling

Maatskaplike werker

Maatskaplik werk riglyne



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