



AFROMONTANE PEOPLE'S CHILD CARE BELIEFS AND PRACTICES FOR THE HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS

The research project focuses on childcare beliefs and practices within an ecological framework for supporting a holistic development of young children aged birth to five years among the people of the Afromontane in Free State, South Africa. It also aims to establish African perspectives and issues of concern through their discourse regarding developmentally appropriate practice in childcare within Microsystems. It is accepted that child development is culturally constructed through beliefs, values and practices within a context such as people living on the mountains. These beliefs and practices regulate the child rearing values, developmental expectations and emotional orientations of caregivers, and their child rearing discourses for achieving valued developmental outcomes. In early childhood education, most childcare beliefs, values and practices are informed by western theories and models. There is limited literature on African voices and perspectives of childcare in different contexts. Rigorous work on early childhood care and education for young children up to five years living on the mountains has not yet been fully documented, hence the need to conduct this study. The lack of literature creates a gap in the existing body of knowledge. Triangulation as an approach will be applied. Triangulation is part of data collection that cuts across two or more instruments or sources. By using a combination of data collection instruments, I will be able to easily validate and cross-check findings. Each data collection instrument has its strengths and weaknesses, and by using triangulation the strength of one method will be compensate the weaknesses of another approach. To obtain triangulation of data collection methods and sources I will use personal accounts, individual interviews and focus group discussions.