



USING UBUNTU TO DEAL WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG INSTITUTIONALIZED YOUTH

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ❑ Introduction
- ❑ Theoretical Framework
- ❑ Methodology
- ❑ Findings
- ❑ Discussion
- ❑ Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

- Youth in residential care often face multiple problems that predispose them to increased chances of engaging in risky behaviors such as drugs and alcohol abuse; a phenomenon that can be associated with a lack of proper grooming in African traditional principles and values.
- Contextually relevant care principles, particularly Ubuntu philosophy, need be incorporated in residential care models to prevent substance use.

Objective: The goal of this study was to explore the integration of Ubuntu philosophy in preventing substance use among youth in residential care in Botswana.

Method: Data were collected from in-depth interviews with the caregivers, selected youth, and social workers. Purposive and convenience sampling techniques were employed in selecting the residential care institutions in Botswana.

Findings: This study found that some youth in residential care engage in risky activities such as substance abuse and truant behaviors in residential care.

FINDINGS

Ubuntu in Botswana and dealing With Substance Abuse Among Institutionalized Youth

- *Ubuntu is Botho/Setho in Botswana.*
- *Ubuntu philosophy is grounded in the values, practices, and beliefs that are dominant in sub-Saharan Africa.*
- Ubuntu ethics is defined as a set of values central among which are reciprocity, common good, peaceful relations, emphasis on human dignity, and the value of human life as well as consensus, tolerance, and mutual respect.”
- *Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu./ Motho ke motho ka babangwe* “I am because we are”; or “a person is a person through other persons.”

hadamadeya
munto umunthu vumuntu
iwa maaya
unhu agwa utu mondo
ubuntu
hunhu bantu obuntu
bato botho gimuntu
mutunchi biakoye bumuntu
bomoto muthu
omundu

Ubuntu authoritative parenting



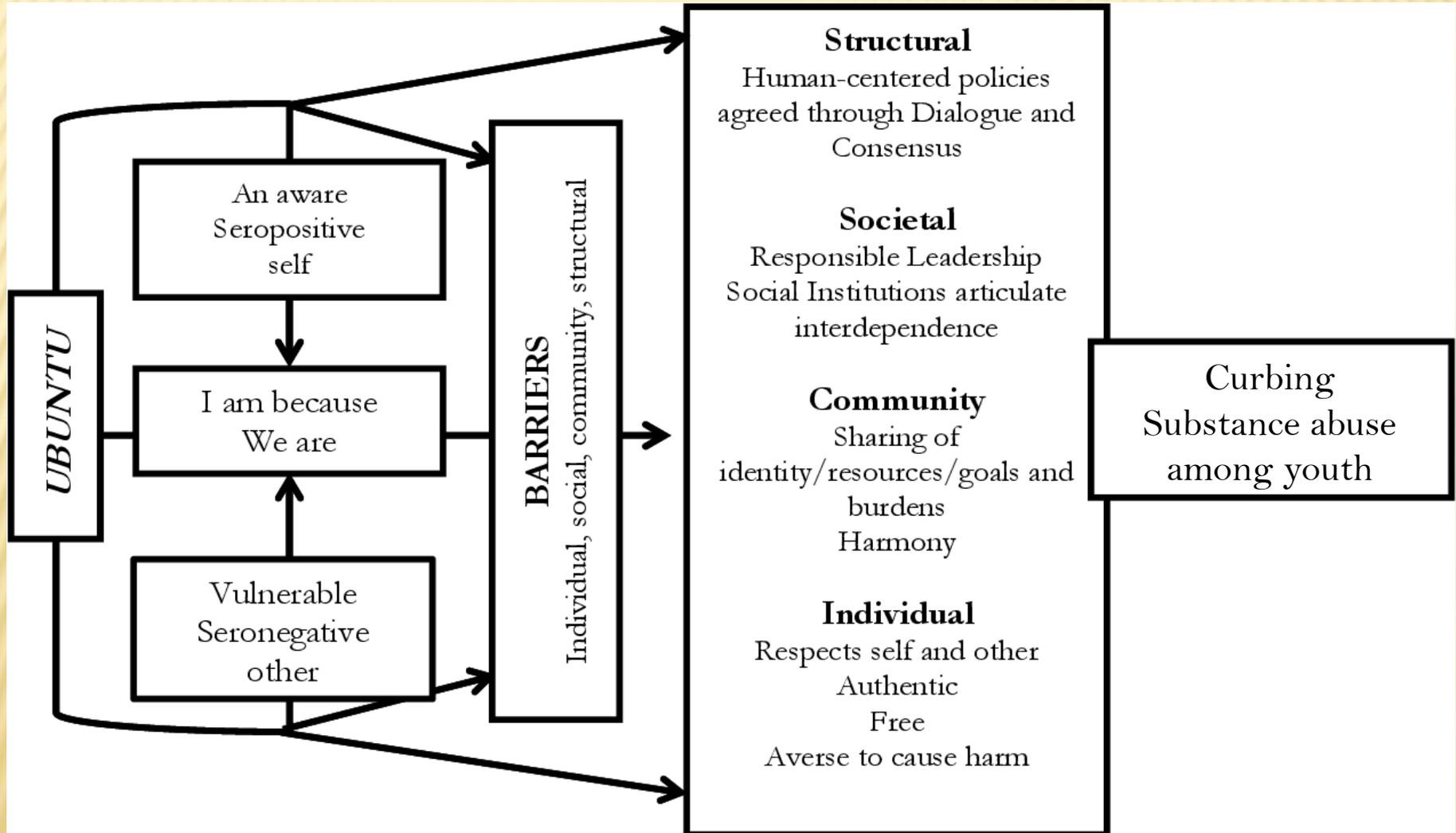
- This parenting style is normally impaired by the fact that the institutionalized children are raised using the Botswana Children's Act of 2009
- Ubuntu authoritative parenting nurtures individuality in relation to others.
- The Ubuntu states that a child belongs to the family, and they are bound together through blood, rules and identity.
- Parents are often worried about the values their children will obtain from the Western modeled education system



UBUNTU AND THE YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY

- A more plausible, satisfactory description of *Ubuntu* is a “narrative of becoming human”, a narrative of seeking the truth, seen in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was underpinned by *Ubuntu* epistemology
- In Ubuntu, children belong to the community (*Ngwana ke wa morafe*).
- The community is made up of individuals, families, leaders and knowledge holders.
- Social workers using community-focused approaches when working with children need to take into account community expectations when designing and delivering programs.
- The community has a role to play to protect children, for socialization and creating an identity
- Institutionalized children live within communities, they are socialized within communities hence the Setswana norms allow elders in the community to reprimand their bad behaviors

A CONCEPTUAL MODEL USING UBUNTU TO DEAL WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG INSTITUTIONALIZED YOUTH



Discussion

Critics of Ubuntu in public health interventions



- While *Ubuntu* ethics have been criticized “because of over-emphasizing the role of the community at the expense of the individual and practical reason, which are equally important in the African traditional societies,” it is instructive to note that despite such criticism, *Ubuntu* ethic has been applied to some biomedical issues.
- An ethical decision-making framework based on the philosophy of *Ubuntu* and argued that in sub-Saharan African settings, this approach provides attractive alternative conventions of moral decision-making.”
- Some researchers have employed *Ubuntu* in addressing the tension between individual rights and public health arising in state’s decision making in a pandemic.

CONCLUSION

- The high prevalence of substance abuse among youth in residential care institutions highlights the need for the general society to purposefully socialize children in care institutions into the core values and principles of Ubuntu.
- This should not only be limited to youth in residential care but should be extended to the youth across Botswana.
- A person with *Ubuntu* is affirming of, as well as available to, others.
- To this end, *Ubuntu* philosophy is an inherently relational philosophy that thrives on being human/person.

THE END. QUESTIONS & COMMENTS?



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