

The Emotional Needs of Urban HIV/AIDS Affected Learners in the Intermediate and Senior Phases

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ABSTRACT The study focused on learners in an urban area in the outskirts of Johannesburg city who lost either a parent or both parents due to HIV/AIDS. The aim of the study was to explore the emotional needs of these learners who were affected by HIV/AIDS. The theoretical framework for the study was Maslow's theory of needs. Five learner- participants were purposely selected from a centre where the caregivers were helping them with homework after school five days a week. Their ages ranged from ten to thirteen. For data collection individual interviews were used and participants used their home language in responding to questions. Findings revealed that all learners yearned for love, warmth, support and felt lonely without biological parents. They also felt that they don't have security ever since their parents died. The paper recommends that the community and the Life Orientation teachers should give emotional support so that their emotional wellness is enhanced.