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Public Perceptions Towards Children Brought Up by Single Mothers: A Case of Queenstown, South Africa

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ABSTRACT Single motherhood is becoming common in many households across the globe. The paper sought to explain perceptions upheld by community members of Queenstown, about the behaviour of children raised by single mothers. Qualitative approach and phenomenological design were utilised. Purposive sampling technique was used to draw participants from Queenstown area. Face-to-face in-depth interviews, complemented by written narratives were used to collect data. An interpretive phenomenological analysis was employed to analyse data. Verbatim and thick descriptions were used to present data. The paper established that children raised by single mothers were viewed as troublemakers who had lost values because they had no adult males to model and be disciplined by. The paper concluded that the society still views children raised by single mothers as problematic and a threat to social order. The community should accept single mother families and view them as normal families just like the 'traditional' family.