

## **Dealing with Children from Child-headed Households: How Prepared Are the Teachers**

**Newlin Marongwe, Reynold Sonn and Mabel-Wendy N. Mashologu**

*Walter Sisulu University, South Africa*

**KEYWORDS** Academic. Attitude. Classroom. Educator. Learner. Ready

**ABSTRACT** The paper sought to ascertain the level of teachers' preparedness to deal with learners from child-headed households (CHHs) in their (learners) academic pursuits. The study followed a qualitative case design of a conveniently selected school and the snowball sampling technique was used to identify orphaned learners. In-depth interviews, observation and document analysis were utilised to collect data. The paper established that teachers were not ready and able to assist these learners. The learners in the study felt that their teachers were not trained to assist them. The paper concluded that teachers were not empowered to deal with CHH learners. Recommendations were made that educators should go for in-service training, workshops, seminars, and professional development meetings to empower and prepare them to deal with such CHH learners. The colleges and universities training teachers should also prepare teachers in the making with the relevant skills to deal with such situations.