

Investigation of Transactional Sex among Adolescent Females in Alice, Eastern Cape, South Africa

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ABSTRACT Grounded in Ajzen's planned behaviour theory, previous scholars documented that when there is lack of parental emotional and financial support, there is a tendency among adolescent females to exchange sex for money. Exacerbated by dysfunctional environment and societies which embrace culture, literature documented such adolescent females become susceptible to sexual abuse and exploitation. The aim of the study was to investigate transactional sex among twelve IsiXhosa-speaking adolescent females, aged 17-19 years old, from Alice, Eastern Cape, South Africa. The study employed qualitative approach. The ethical principles were adhered to, during the focus group interview and data was collected through tape-recording device. The following themes were identified; attachment, orphanhood, intergenerational relationships, female agreeableness, condom use and masochism. In conclusion, this research recommends sex- education for adolescents in general to curb sexual transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy.