

ANNEXURE C:

Transcription of an audio taped interview

Int = Interviewer

Resp = Respondent

Int: Good afternoon

Resp: Good afternoon to you

Int: Thank you for accommodating me in your house and allowing me to ask you your experiences in a stepfamily relationship

Resp: I am the one who is happy that you came as I need to talk to someone concerning my problem

Int: We can use your language or English for us to understand each other better

Resp: Don't worry sister, English is not a problem

Int: I would like you to tell me your experiences in a stepfamily relationship

Resp: Okmmm..... It is these stepchildren ... about four. They were staying with their mothers I think before

Int: I hear you say they were staying with their mothers. Where are they staying now?

Resp: I mean they came here in October and all along they were with their mothers. You know, it is four different mothers. No one told me that they were coming and for how long are they going to stay here. It is now July and they are still here

Int: If I hear you well, they came last October, 2001?

Resp: Yes, since last year October and I feel I am now finish with them, because they are not helping in the house but just eat and sleep

Int: I hear what you say

Resp: Eh It is four big boys who are not working or attending school, the big one I think is 26 yrs and I'm not sure about these other three

Int: Mmmm, I hear what you say. Tell me more about these boys

Resp: This big boy's mother is staying in Killarney, before they lived in Natal. The second boy I understand left school, I don't know where his mother is, the third and fourth I also don't know their mothers. What is surprising, they all came at the same time last year in October. My husband admits they are his children, but he did not tell me before he married me that he had four children. I only knew of the first two boys this gives me a lot of headaches

Int: I hear you say you get lots of headaches

Resp: Yes, you know, other stepchildren, I don't know what to say. Oh they would say it is their father's house. They think one does not love them, as you can see, they are big enough that I cannot control them. Their upbringing is different as I look, they seem not to like my own children

Int: I hear you say they do not like your children How many children have you got?

Resp: They are four. So, all in all now is eight children in the house. The big one is my daughter at the technikon. Two are at primary and the baby you can see now I am carrying. He is two years old

Int: Tell me the experiences in your house

Resp: Oh Inyaka-nyaka (meaning upside down) you can imagine as when everybody is here, we are ten with my husband. There is no order when these boys are here. Anyone who feels like going to the kitchen he goes, making food for himself and not for everybody. They wake up at their own times and I don't have to say anything

Int: I hear what you say. Would you tell me more

Resp: I feel so bad and it is hurting. My husband does not say anything as I think he sees them as his own blood. It looks like I don't have a say in this house

Int: I hear you say you do not have control over them

Resp: I can only control my own children as we are used to staying alone without these stepchildren, I mean these boys. Now, what bothers me is that suddenly they are coming and it looks like they are here for good. It is just that you don't see them now. They are all gone and I don't know when they are coming back again. I feel scared about them. I don't trust them. It's as if they could poison you

Int: I hear you are scared about your stepsons

Resp: Yes, I don't trust them. It is as though they will put something in your food. I never leave my cup of tea alone, I make sure I finish it or throw it away if I had left it around them. You know how we blacks are. There is a lot of bewitchment, maybe these stepchildren are plotting to kill me. I feel so insecure as I have to be careful and now I get terrible headaches. Even my daughter does not feel safe for me when these stepchildren are around

Int: I hear what you say. I wonder what the others say, I mean your own children?

Resp: Eh They don't like it, because they also bring complaints to me especially when they are watching TV. They will come saying brother so and so changes

the channel when we are watching. My children are used to staying with us alone without the stepbrothers and nobody interferes with them as they like to watch cartoons. So, everything now puzzles me

Int: I hear you are mentioning many things that you are not happy with. I wonder what your husband says

Resp: I feel he must intervene and do something. He does not talk as I am the one to push him to say something. What he says is ... don't worry, they will go, they are just visiting. You see, I would not mind if their mothers were dead, at least I would understand and be able to help them. Now you see, it is big men, how do you start? I just don't know what to do. Maybe that you are here today, you will come with solutions

Int: I hear what you say although I do not do therapy or bring solutions, but I will refer you to the psychologist who will help you. All I am here for is to know what your experiences are in this family

Resp: I don't like this type of life. Sometimes I feel I were dead and not experiencing this. Even if we were all here, it would be a problem and they would think that I am reporting them to you. For now they are all gone and I don't know when they are coming back

Int: I see they are not here. Where are they?

Resp: They are all gone, all of them. It is as though they hold a meeting and say we are going on this day and will return again on this day. They left the first week of July. I am now having a break though I am restless and anxious as to when are they stepping on my door again

Int: I hear you say you are restless and anxious. Will you tell me more about this?

Resp: Sister, how on earth does one live with this kind of life. Maybe if I were working it would be better. I have this little child to look after and the other

school going ones. If it was not for them, I would have long gone to my mother but now, who will prepare food for my children. If I had a supportive husband, I would not be experiencing this mess

Int: I hear you wish to go to your mom. I wonder what your husband will say

Resp: I know he would not agree because he also expects to find food when he comes home from work. When it is me and my children alone, it is not a problem but let those boys come back, they would wake up late at nine in the morning even when it is hot but when their father is around especially weekends they try to wake up early but you can hardly see what they do. They make my life so difficult

Int: I hear what you say. I will refer you to the nearest counsellor at your place to help you

Resp: I definitely need help Sister, otherwise, I will die because of stress and leave my children. They are still young and need my loving care and support

Int: Ok...I have listened to all what you have been saying, and I will refer you. Thank you for the opportunity you gave me in telling me your experience in the stepfamily relationship