# When Home is not Home: Challenges Faced by Children from Orphanage after being Reintegrated back into Society

Sheron Gomera* and Julia Mutambara

Cdo`qsldms ne Adg`uhntq`k Rbhdmbdr+ E`btksx ne Ldchbhmd+ Lhck`mcr Rs`sd Tmhudqrhsx+ Fvdqt+ Yhla`avd

Corresponding Author*

Sheron Gomera
Department of Behavioural Sciences
Midlands State University, Gweru, Zimbabwe
E-mail: sherongomera81@gmail.com
Tel: 236779712881

**Copyright:** 2020 Gomera S. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

**Received:** 08 July 2020; **Accepted:** 23 July 2020; **Published:** 31 July 2020

## Abstract

This qualitative study sought to explore the experiences of children at an orphanage when they reach adulthood and they are expected to move out of the orphanage which would be the only home they know. A phenomenological research design was used to describe the experiences of graduate orphans; the sample was made up of 13 participants (1 administrator, 5 caregivers and 7 graduate orphans). Data was collected through in-depth interviews. Data were coded, categorized and analysed through identification of themes (any specific analysis method that was used). The findings showed that orphanages offered opportunities for graduate orphans to survive effectively and independently after being reintegrated back into society, however they were facing challenges with emotional and psychological adjustment to the new environment which was influenced by the way they were socialized in the orphanage. It emerged during the study that they had challenges with locating relatives, failure to bond, bitterness, isolation, self-identity, forgiveness, dependency syndrome, securing employment, cynicism, and lack of support system. This study recommends that policy makers should introduce policies that promote fostering and adoption in Zimbabwe and create awareness on the benefits of removing a child from the orphanage and raising them in home set up.

Keywords:

## Aim

The aim of the study is to explore the experiences of children raised at an orphanage when they reach adulthood and must be weaned out of the

The orphans where socialized at the institution, care they got and the long time they spent at the orphanage. These challenges start by trying to