

**CHAPTER 4**

**FINDINGS OF THE**

**STUDY**

# INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter outlined the research design. In this chapter, the data analysis is presented. A brief introduction of each participant and his family structures will be presented before moving on the analysis of the data. In order to protect the identity of the participants, numerical numbers are allocated to distinguish the participants.

## BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

**Participant number 1** is from a nuclear family, staying with both biological parents and siblings. Only his father is employed at a shop in town. The mother is not employed. The participant is 15 years old, and third born in the family. He is repeating grade 8. He was introduced to substances by a cousin during his visit in Gauteng province. He was in primary school doing grade 4 at the time. He uses beer, cigarettes and heroin. The first substance that he used was heroin. He is dependent on these substances; using them three times a day; that is in the morning, during the day and at night. He also uses substances during weekends. His mode of use of these substances includes smoking, inhaling and drinking. He uses substances because his cousin introduced him to them, his parents reprimand him a lot at home and because of peer group pressure. These substances are sold in the area where the participant is residing. The participant uses pocket money and works part-time to maintain his habit. He uses substances at the local tavern. He knows the effects of substances. The participant's academic performance is also negatively affected by the use of these substances. He regrets his use of these substances and indicated that he needs assistance to stop using substances. His parents are not aware of his use of substances.

**Participant number 2** is 15 years old, in grade 9 and lives with his extended family. He is the eldest at home. He uses tobacco, alcohol and cannabis. The modes of use of these substances

are smoking and drinking. The reasons for using substances are that he wanted to experiment or taste the substances and friends influenced him to use substances. He is dependent on these substances and uses them in the morning, during the day and at night. He often absents himself from school and joins his friends in the bush to use substances. He also uses them at the local tavern. He and his friends each contribute money to buy the substances, and also uses his pocket money to buy substances. His parents are not aware that he uses substances. He was arrested for stealing computers at a store with his friends. He is currently serving a sentence every Saturday at the Correctional Services. Substances have affected his academic performance. He is repeating the grade and still obtains low marks. He knows the effects of using substances and regrets his use of substances. He has an uncle who smokes cigarettes.

**Participant Number 3** is 15 years old, currently repeating grade 8 and staying with both of his biological parents. Only his father is employed. Substances used are alcohol and cigarettes. He uses these substances at the tavern with his friends during weekends. He is dependent on alcohol. His reasons for using substances are ill treatment by his parents, an uncle who was arrested, became sick and who later died, peer group pressure, entertainment and the fact that an uncle introduced him to cigarettes because he asked him to light them for him. His parents allow him to go to the tavern. Once he is under the influence of alcohol, he becomes violent and fights with people. He uses his pocket money to buy substances. His academic performance has dropped because of his use of them. He knows the effects of using substances and regrets his use of substances.

**Participant number 4** is 15 years old, first born at home and is currently repeating grade 8. He is staying with his biological mother, step-father and his younger sister. The mother is unemployed, and only his step-father is working. His biological father is employed as a migrant laborer in Rustenburg, but is not taking care of him. He drinks beer. His friends, who are employed, buy alcohol for him. He drinks alcohol at the tavern with his friends on Fridays and Saturdays. He sleeps in an outside room and his parents cannot see him if he comes home drunk. His reasons for his use of substances are that his step-father treats him badly; and he does not

want to see him playing. He sometimes sleeps without eating anything and goes to school on an empty stomach. He is stressed and his friends influenced him to use substances in order to relieve stress. He is unable to talk to his mother because she is too strict. Instead, she feels comfortable expressing his feelings to her grand mother who is not staying with them and is also unemployed. He is overwhelmed by his situation and feels helpless. He even thinks of committing suicide. He is afraid to tell educators about his problems. He indicated that he needs assistance so that he can be like other children. No one in his family is using substances. He understands the effect of using substances, yet continues to do so.

**Participant number 5** is 15 years old, in grade 8 and staying with his grandmother. His biological parents have separated. They are both alive and the father has married another woman. His father is employed as a police inspector and takes care of him. The mother is unemployed. He uses cannabis, cigarettes, glue and cocaine. He started using substances on his own; saw other people using substances, thought it was normal to use drugs, thought it makes one cleverer and helps one to concentrate when studying. He buys cannabis in the village and smokes it at home. He is dependent on substances; uses them in the morning, during the day and at midnight. He plays video games in order to ensure that he has these substances. He understands the effects of using substances. He regrets his use of substances and wants to stop using them. He also wants to live a positive life, complete his studies and discourage other teenagers from using substances.

**Participant number 6** is 15 years old, in grade 8 and staying alone in a child headed household. His mother passed away and his father left after her death. He has an elder brother and two sisters who are staying in Rustenburg. He drinks alcohol and smokes cigarettes with friends, either at home or at the butchery. His reasons for using substances are due to the fact that his mother passed away, he is lonely at home and his father left him and told him to take care of himself because he is now an adult. He relies on his sisters for care and support. He sometimes has to wait long periods for them to send him money or food. He is stressed and friends influenced him to use substances to forget his problems. His friends provide him with food,

cigarettes and alcohol. He has no choice but to succumb to peer group pressure to use substances. He relies on his friends who often provide him with food, love and support to survive. The situation is unbearable for the teenager who is always alone at home. He needs someone to take care of him and help him to stop using substances.

**Participant number 7** is 13 years old, completing grade 8 and staying with his father and stepmother. His biological mother passed away. He has two brothers, one half brother and two half sisters. His father is a taxi driver and the step mother is unemployed. The substances used are cigarettes and beer. The reasons for his use of substances are attributed to problems he experiences with bleeding and his parents told him to smoke in order to stop bleeding. He has smoked ever since then. After the death of his mother, he mourned for her and could not sleep. Sometimes he would have dreams of his mother. Thus, in order to sleep, he would drink two bottles of beer before sleeping. He also has friends who drink alcohol. They offered him beer during a school trip and he tasted it that day and continued drinking beer after that day.

**Participant number 8** is 14 years old completing grade 9. He is raised by his mother. He does not know his father. He has a younger sister. The participant uses the following substances; namely beer, brandy, cigarettes, and cannabis. He gets these substances from friends who buy them in their village. They use these substances at the bush and the mountain. He gets money to maintain his habit by helping people to carry their groceries and cleaning gardens. He uses substances for the following reasons: he encounters problems at home; his mother is unemployed and relies on child support grant for survival, subsequently his basic needs are not met. His friends always help him in that they provide things that he need. He ended up joining his friends in substance use. He saw other people using substances. He is dependent on these substances; using them in the morning, during the day and at night. He knows the effects of using substances yet continues using them. He wants to stop using substances, feels like running away and getting help somewhere. He has an uncle who drinks alcohol and smokes cigarettes.

**Participant number 9** is 14 years old, in grade 9 from an extended family and lives with his grandmother. The mother is a migrant laborer working in Pretoria. He has an older sister, a brother and a younger sister. The substance he abuses is cannabis. He was introduced to cannabis by a friend who stole part of the substances every time his father sent him to buy for him. He also saw his friend's father smoking cannabis and feeling happy afterwards. He wanted to feel that way. His first substance used was cigarettes. He smokes cigarettes and cannabis with his friends at the bush next to their school. He is dependent on tobacco and smokes these substances in the morning, during school break, during lessons and after school. These substances are sold in their village. He uses his pocket money to buy these substances. He knows the effects of using substances. He also has friends who use substances. His mother has asked him to stop using substances, and has verbalized the need to stop using substances and help other learners who are using to stop.

**Participant number 10** is a 13 years old only child who is raised by a single parent that is unemployed. The family structure is composed of an extended family. Substances used are tobacco and cannabis which he buys from someone in their village. Pocket money is used to buy these substances. He smokes these substances in the bush. His usage depends on the weather. If it is cold or cloudy, he uses them the whole day and on sunny days he uses them once. The reasons for him using substances are that he wanted to feel high, and substances gave him strength and courage to do things. He had trouble sleeping and using substances enabled him to sleep. He did not want to think about anything. His friends influenced him to use substances. He has an uncle who smokes cigarettes and drinks alcohol. The participant knows the effects of taking substances, yet continues to use them. His academic performance has dropped due to substance abuse. He wants to stop using substances and believes that he can only do so once he moves out of the place where they are staying.

**Participant number 11** is 15 years old, in grade 9 and is raised by his mother only. They are a family of three; he is the youngest and has one older brother. He is dependent on cigarettes. He

buys cigarettes from the butchery next to their school. He smokes cigarettes in the morning, during break and after school. He also smokes cigarettes at the school toilets during school hours as well as at the butchery next to their school. He asks for money from her mother and buys cigarettes with it. He is not treated well at home; his mother does not talk well to him, she is unable to provide for his needs and told him that she does not love him. He does not know his father. His mother told him about his father after his death. His mother refused to allow him to see his father. His friends smoke cigarettes, so he was worried that he would be the only one who is not smoking. The participant also feared rejection from friends. His friends told him to smoke in order to forget about his problems. He knows the effects of using substances yet he continues to smoke cigarettes. He has tried to stop smoking cigarettes but it is difficult for him and he would like somebody to help him to stop smoking. No one else in his family uses substances.

**Participant number 12** is 15 years old, in grade 7 and from an extended family. He is raised by a single parent and his grandparents. His mother is employed as a domestic servant in the neighboring location. He has a younger brother. The mother relies on her meagre income and child support grant for survival. She separated from their father who is not taking care of the children. The teenager smokes cigarettes and drinks beer. He is stressed by the fact that his father is employed but denies the fact and does not take care for them. Their mother has been battling for financial assistance from their father who is not willing to provide for his children's needs. Her mother is not willing to provide for his needs and that frustrates him. He needs help in ensuring that his father provides for their needs. The situation at home is unbearable and as a result he is now using substances to cope. He is also a member of a traditional dance group. They are normally hired to dance at shopping complexes and then he uses the money earned to buy food, cigarettes and alcohol. He buys these substances at the tavern. He indicates that he had a desire for alcohol and also saw friends and other people drinking alcohol. Drinking alcohol relieves him of stress.

**Table 1.0 code and themes identification**

| Codes              | Issues discussed  | Themes identified  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Substance of abuse | Legal and illegal substances  | Beer, Black Label, brandy, cigarettes, Boxer, cannabis, cocaine, pills and heroin.   |
| Learning           | Friends<br>Family members<br>Adults   | I saw friends using drugs, my friends light a cigarette and smoked it, I also smoked the cigarette and continued ever since that time. My friends smoke cigarette and drink Castle beer. I spent time with my friends and joined them in using drugs. Myuncle uses Peter Stuyvesant and Castle Lager. My uncle smokes Boxer cigarettes. My two uncles drink beer and smokes cigarettes.  |
| Pleasure           | Enjoyment   | I used drugs for fun. I wanted to entertain myself.I saw my friend’s father laughing after using drugs. I used drugs in order to feel high.  |
| Psychopathology    | Conduct disorder,<br>Depression,<br>Anxiety,<br>Frustration,<br>Irritation<br>Delinquency | After using drugs, we fight other people. I am Stressed. Ialwaysworryaboutmy situation. Isometimesfeellikekilling someone. There is no one to help me with my problems. I needsomeone to help me with my problems every time. Ineed things, they do not provide, and that frustrates me a lot. Istealchangeeverytimetheysentmetobuy things at the shop. We stole things at the shop next to our location and we were arrested. |

|                                  |                              |   |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Source of supply                 | Local<br>External            | There is someone selling Nyaope in our village. We buy drugs from people in our village. I drink alcohol at the tavern. I bought cigarette from the tuckshop. We bought beer and cigarette at the butchery. My cousin staying in Indore bought Nyaope for me. |
| Maintaining/<br>sustaining habit | Parents<br>Friends           | I use pocket money to buy drugs. I ask my parents to give me money. Myself and my friends, we each contribute 2rs and buy dagga.  |
|                                  | Payment                      | I have a part-time job, by cleaning gardens and use money earned to, buy drugs. I help people by carrying their groceries and use the money they give to me, to buy drugs.  |
|                                  | Criminal activity            | I play dice, and use the money that I win to buy drugs. I steal change every time they send me to buy something and use that money to buy drugs.  |
| Effects                          | Health<br>Social<br>Economic | Ill health, lose weight, affect mind, sight, unable to concentrate, hangovers, addiction. Lack respect, violence, accidents. Unable to study, absent from school, performance drops, failure, repeat grade, drop out of school.                               |
| Multiple substance use           | Nature/types                 | Tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, Nyaope.  |
| Conformity                       | Friends, adults              | Saw others using them. Spent time with friends.   |
| Socio-economic status            | Poor/low                     | Unemployed parents. No source of income. Do not get things I need.  |
| Setting/place use                | Home, bush,<br>school toilet | Used substances at home, school toilets, bush, tavern.  |

|                         |  |   |
|-------------------------|--|---|
|                         | ets,shop, tavern                                   |   |
| Family structure        | Nuclear<br>Extended<br>Step family<br>Child headed | Mother, father and children.<br>Gmother/father aunt,uncle .<br>Grandmother, grandfather, mother, aunt, and my younger sister.Step mother, stepfather.Staying alone.   |
| Frequency substance use | Often, dependent                                   | Use drugs more than once, thrice, early hours of the morning, morning, during the day, at night, mid night, during break, after school, on weekends.  |
| Relationships           | Strained relations                                 | Mymother doesn't talkto me. Not talkingwell with mymother.I am only able to talk to my grandmother.   |
| Biology                 | Courage<br>Strength<br>Insomnia                    | Drugs helped me to do things.<br>Drugs give me courage to do things.<br>I could not sleep, drugs helped me to sleep.  |
| Treatment               | Bad treatment                                      | My mother does not love me.<br>I am not treated well at home.<br>My step father ill treats me.<br>I sometimes sleep without eating.<br>In sometimes go to school on an emptystomach.<br>My mother chases me away without any reason.  |
| Experiment              | Taste  | I wanted to taste the drugs.  |
| Stopping habit          | Desire<br>Lack of control<br>Positive talk         | I want to stop using drugs, but I am unable to do so.<br>I have tried to stop but cannot, I need someone to help me stop using drugs.<br>I want to stop using drugs and be the father of the future□. „I want to tell other learners to stop using drugs because they are not good□. „I can stop using drugs, if I can stop going out with friends using drugs. I can stop usingdrugs, ifRelocate from thisarea□. |

**Table 2: From basic themes to organizing and global themes**

| Basic themes   | Organizing themes   | Global themes   |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, heroin, glue, cocaine home, school toilets, bush, tavern   | Substances abused<br>and Setting  | Substance abuse |
| Fun, entertainment, feels high, unfulfilled needs, friends, uncle, sold in our village, tavern, shop, butchery.  | Reasons for drug use<br>Experimentation Family factors<br>Peer group pressure Role models Depression<br>Availability<br>Media | Substance abuse |
| Pocket money, friends, part time jobs, gambling, stealing  | Maintaining habit   | Substance abuse |
| Unable to concentrate, ill health, flue, damage lungs, affect mind, bronchitis, sight, headache, hangover, addiction, lose weight, death.<br><br>Lack of respect, violence, rape, accidents<br>Sleep in class, difficulty studying, absent from school, performance drops, failure, repeat grade, drop out of school | Effects of substance abuse<br>Health<br><br>Social Academic   | Substance abuse |
| Difficult, need help   | Stopping habit<br>Seeking solutions   | Substance abuse |

# RESULTS

This section outlines the findings of this study. The research findings are presented as follows: First, the basic themes and organizing themes are presented and secondly, the themes are supported by extracts from the participants' responses. The following themes are discussed in this section: age and grade of substance use, reasons for substance use, maintaining the substance abuse habit, stopping the substance abuse habit and the effects of substance abuse.

## **Age and grade for substance use**

The age for first time use of substances in this study was between 12 and 15 years among the participants. Furthermore, participants in this study started abusing substances in grade 7 to 9. One participant reported that he started using substances in grade 4.

## **Substance of abuse and setting**

All the participants reported that they are using substances. The nature of substances abuse includes both legal and illegal substances. The legal substances abused by the adolescents in this study are beer, ciders and tobacco. Illegal substances abused include cannabis, cocaine and heroin. Some participants also reported poly-substance use. Thus, common themes were identified among more than one participant in some instances.

## **Reasons for substance use**

Participants mentioned various reasons for their use of substances. Their reasons include the following: experimentation, biological, depression, peer group pressure, availability and family structure.

## **Depression**

Most of the participants reported stress as the cause for their use of substances. One of the participants reported that: „I feel stressed□ (Participant 12); „I worry a lot, that stresses me a lot□„I am unable to sleep□ (Participant 10). Furthermore, most of the participants mentioned the function of using substances as relieving stress. Other components of depression described by the adolescents included irritability, unrelenting anger and powerlessness.

## **Biological reasons**

One participant indicated that he used substances because it helped him with his sleeping problem; others reported that substances helped them to accomplish things that they wanted to do.

## **Peer group pressure**

In adolescents' talk about substances, the influence of friends was articulated as a key factor. The frequency of the talk about the influence of friends was perhaps to be expected, given that peer group is frequently perceived as the major reason or cause of substance abuse among adolescents.

## **Availability**

Substances are easily available in the participants'□ communities. When participants were asked about where they bought these substances, they indicated that they bought them in their locations or villages. Majority of the participants mentioned that they were able to buy substances in their local shops, taverns, and butchery.

## **Family factors**

### **Family structure**

The family structures of the participants are different. Some participants are from nuclear families, single parent families, extended families, step parent families and child headed families.

### **Communication**

Some participants reported closed communication channels between themselves and their parents. These varied from being afraid of talking to their parents to not being able to communicate to their parents.

### **Parenting style**

Some participants reported permissive and authoritarian parenting styles in their families.

### **Heredity**

There is evidence of substance use in the families of the participants. This was reported by some participants that there is someone using substances in their families.

### **Maintaining the substance abuse habit**

The means of obtaining substances varied amongst the participants. Other participants obtained money from home, whereas others used their pocket money or earned a salary that could support their substance use.

## **Effects of substance abuse**

All the participants in this study are aware of the effects of abusing substances. They mentioned the following health, social and economic effects of substance abuse:

## **Health Effects**

One participant reported that people become slaves to substances.

## **Dependence**

Most of the participants reported that they were dependent on substances.

## **Social effects**

All the participants were aware that their use of substances also affects other people.

## **Economic effects**

Majority of the participants indicated that substances affect their academic performance and that one may end up dropping from school. Furthermore, the participants mentioned that substances affect their studies. The use of drugs had health, social and economic effects on the adolescent drug user.

# **CHAPTER SUMMARY**

In this chapter, the data analysis was presented. The profile of participants in this study was presented as well as the steps that were followed in analyzing data were discussed and the identification of basic themes, organizing themes and global themes were explained. The basic themes, organizing themes and global themes were presented in tables and in web like structures. Furthermore, the findings of the study were discussed and supported with the extracts that were derived from the interview transcripts. The results of this study will be further discussed further in the next chapter.