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Psychosocial Educational Programme to Facilitate the Reintegration of Incarcerated Women who have Dumped Babies or Committed Infanticide

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Faculty Disclosure



Faculty name

**Faculty of Health science
School of nursing**

Conflict of interest

None

Employer

University of Namibia

Sponsorship/ Commercial support

None

CONTENT OUTLINE

- ❑ AIM OF THE PRESENTATION

- ❑ BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

- ❑ METHODOLOGY AND FINDINGS

 - PHASE 1: Experiences of the participants

 - PHASE 2: Conceptualization

 - PHASE 3: Development of the Programme

 - PHASE 4: Implementation and evaluation of the Programme

- ❑ CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AIM OF PRESENTATION

BABY DUMPING AND INFANTICIDE



WOMEN IN PRISON



UN – WANTED PREGNANCIES



Present methodology used in developing, implementing, and evaluating an educational programme for women who had dumped babies and / or committed infanticide to facilitate their reintegration upon release with their families and with society in general in the Oshana Region, Namibia.

Background of the Study

The researcher explored and described the views of women who had dumped babies and / or committed infanticide with regard to their experiences with the purpose of developing, implementing, and evaluating an educational programme to facilitate their reintegration upon release from custody with their families and society in general in the Oshana Region, Namibia.

Baby dumping and infanticide involve mother either abandoning an infant without care, or exposing the child to danger or death (The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare 2009). Baby dumping and infanticide have become social phenomena with grave consequences that are drawing nationwide attention and condemnation in Namibia. In general its also worldwide phenomenon (Ojedokun and Atoi ,2012; Ajewole, 2011; Ssendi, 2012; Harare City Council 2009 in Bentu 2013; Shabani, 2013; Koopman ,2013; Ramklass (2010) . Some of contribute factors are teenage pregnancy; use of alcohol and drugs, rape, stigma, ignorance and peer pressure; HIV and poverty, lack of male involvement in the reproductive health (MCGECW, 2009; Amukugo 2009).

In General, Namibia have seen numerous reports of baby dumping that is on the increase. The first case of baby dumping and infanticide was reported in either 1938 or 1939 during the colonial period (Hubbard, 2008). In the same vein, the 2010 United Nations Children's Fund Report on children and adolescents in Namibia reveals that **thirteen** dead babies are found every month at the sewage works in Windhoek (Baby Dumping Prevention Awareness Campaign

Background contd.

Namibia is recognized baby dumping and infanticide not only as a criminal act, but also as a social and public health problem that has an impact on the child mortality rate in Namibia, which currently stands at 45.64 deaths per 1 000 live births. That places Namibia in the 47th position of the 2014 World Infant Mortality Rate.

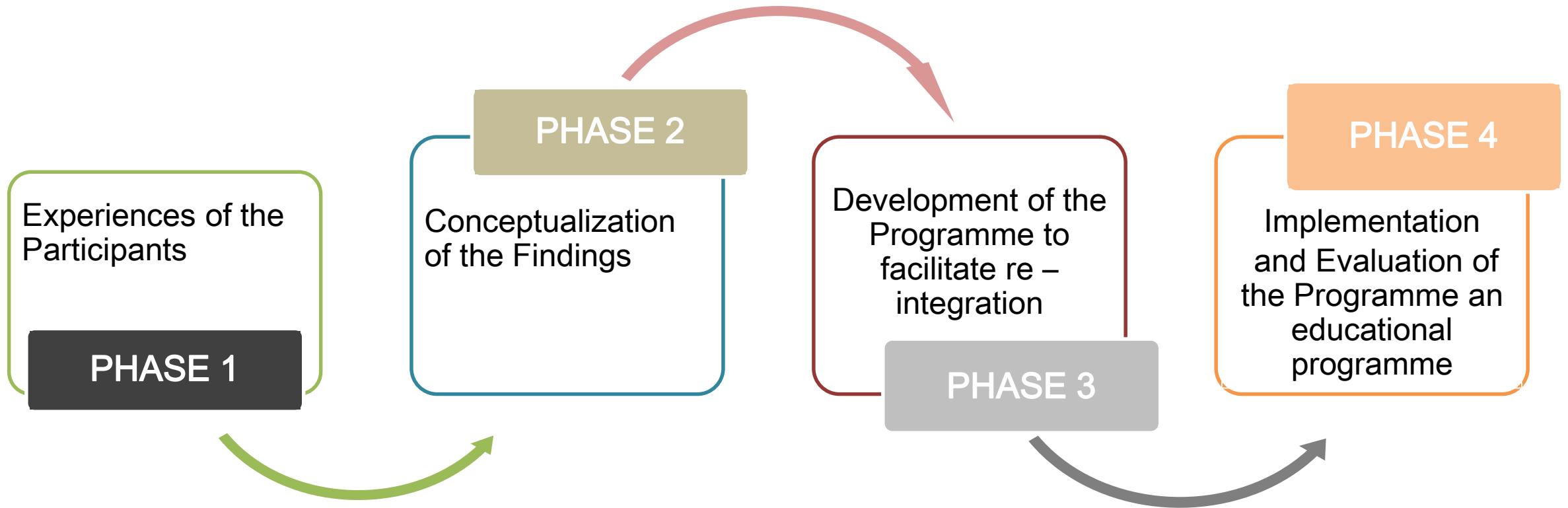
In Namibia, baby dumping and infanticide is a criminal act punishable by law. This implies that when a woman is prosecuted she may be sentenced to prison with charges of murder and concealment of birth. These women will not remain in custody; they need to be re-integrated into society after they serve their sentence. Remember these women irrespective of their act; they are protected by the constitution of Namibia.

No study has been done to look at the experiences of these mothers and at the same time Namibia lacks accurate figures on the incidence of baby dumping and infanticide because such instances are either underreported or not recorded separately from other murders (Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, 2009).

What are the experience of mother before and after the act?

What should be done in order to support women ?

METHODOLOGY AND FINDING



PHASE 1: EXPERIENCES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

A **qualitative, explorative, descriptive and contextual** in nature was used to explore the experience before (retrospectively) and after the act.

Women in custody, purposively selected and inclusion criteria were set and all 11 women participated.

In-depth interview and FGDs: audio recorded and transcribed verbatim later translated.

Trustworthiness: Credibility, dependability and transferability were applied.

Ethical principles: Respect of the human dignity, justice and beneficence were applied

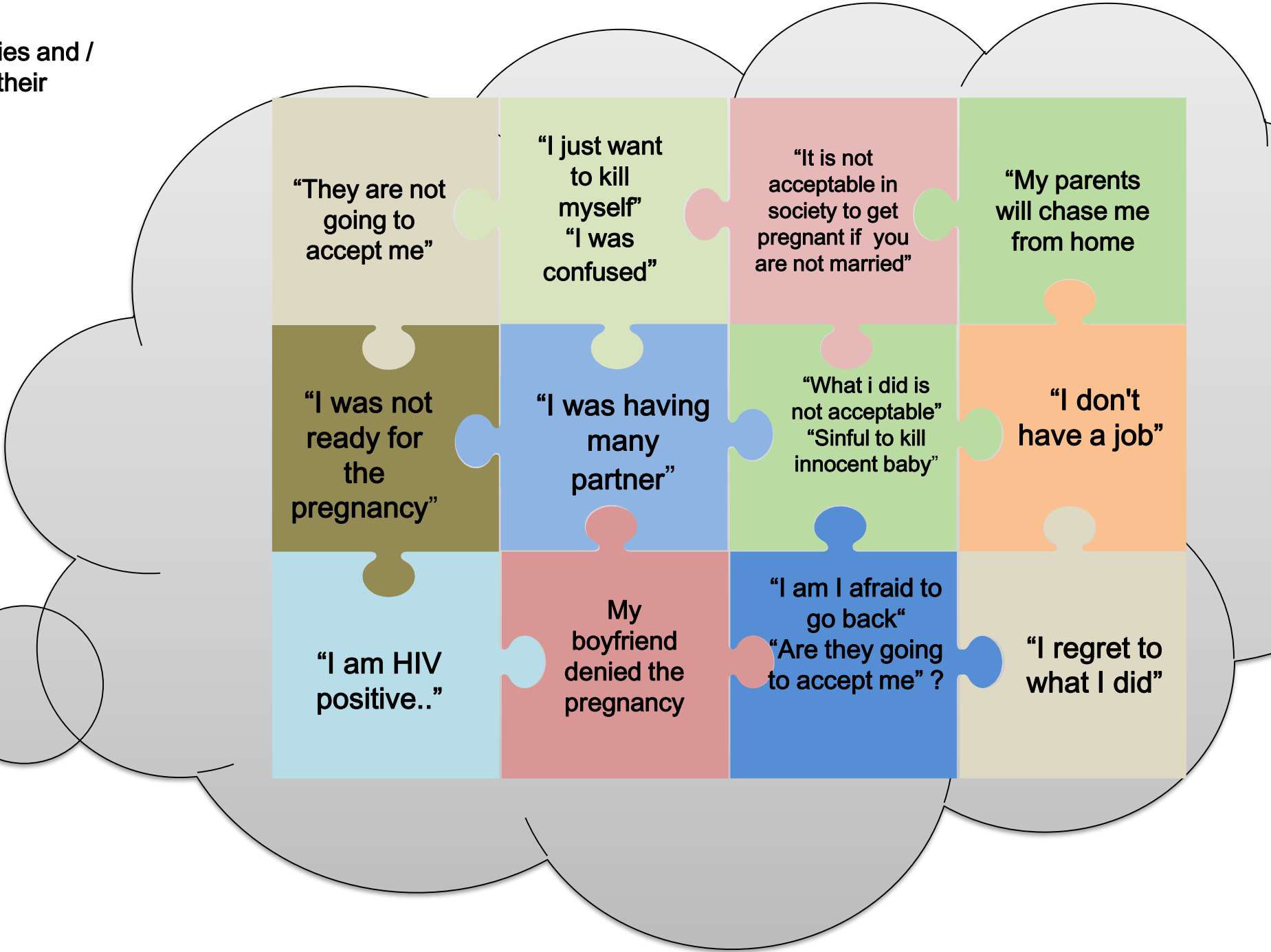
Qualitative analysis techniques [transcribing, translation, reading, coding, displaying, reducing and interpreting] in this study, **Tesch's** eight steps method employed.

The external or independent coder was involved in data analysis.

The list of concepts and statements were reorganized and rearranged into themes and sub-themes. Three (3) themes and eleven (11) sub-themes were identified.



Views of women who had dumped babies and / or committed infanticide with regard to their experiences



FINDINGS

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. **Denial and rejection** by male partners, family, and the community members
2. **Feelings of fear, anger, and evil thoughts** that contribute to baby dumping and infanticide.
3. **Feelings of despair.**
4. **Lack of support** by family members, male partners, and the community.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

1. **Alcohol and drugs abuse** that contributed to baby dumping and infanticide.
2. **Multiple sexual partners / promiscuity** that contributed to baby dumping and committing infanticide.
3. **Poverty that** contributed to baby dumping and committing infanticide.
4. **HIV and AIDS** that contribute to baby dumping and infanticide.

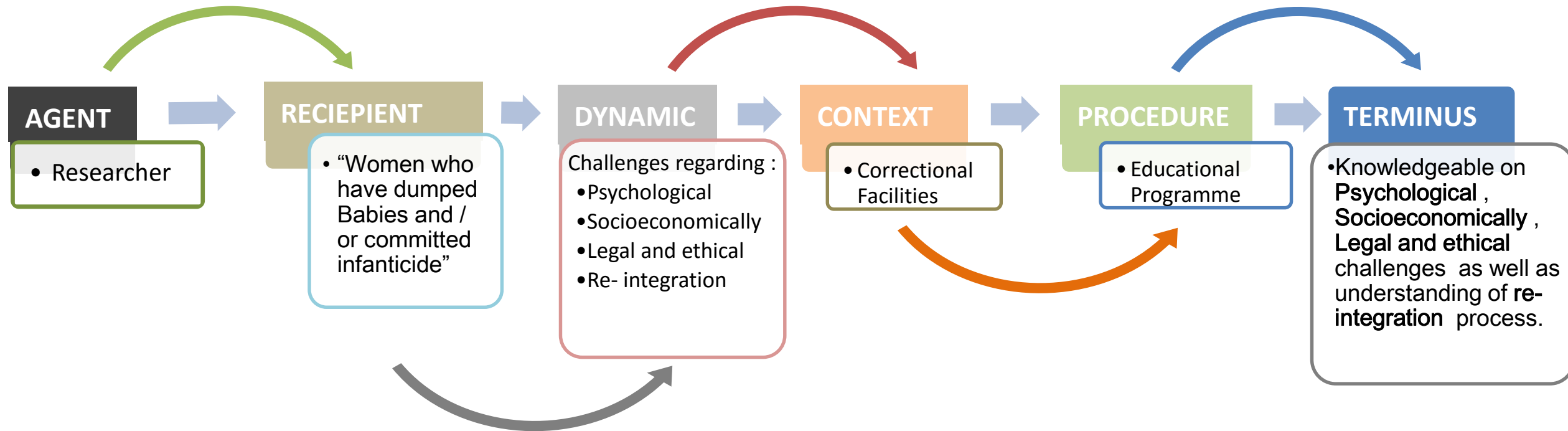
FEAR OF RE- INTERGRADATION AND NEEDS POLICIES/ GUIDELINES AS WELL OF LEGAL AND ETHICAL UNDERSTANDING

1. **Fear of reintegration** after being released from prison into own community.
2. **Needs** for reintegration **policies / guidelines** to facilitate the support by family member, male partners (boyfriends).
3. Need of **Legal** and **ethical** understanding .

“Psychosocial Educational programme is needed to mitigate the challenges and also to prepare women for re – integration ”

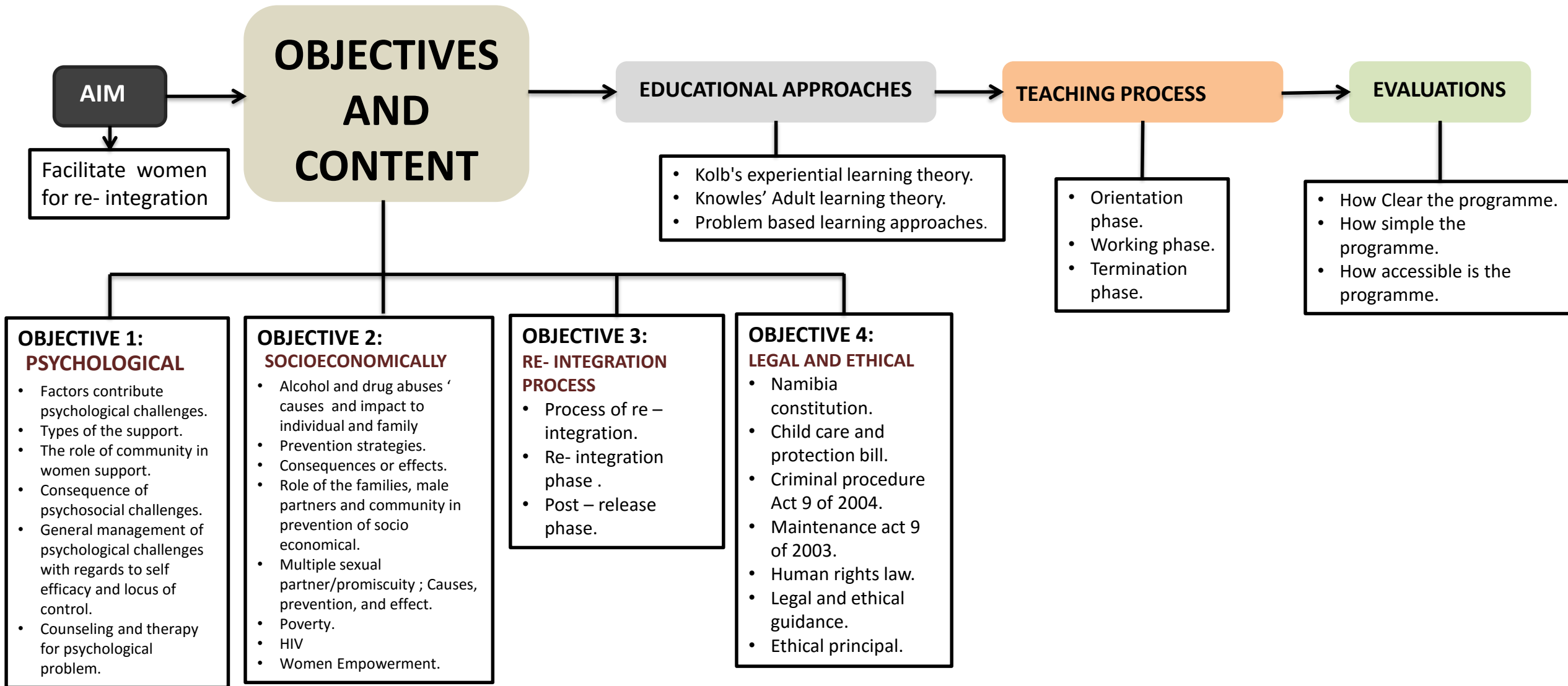
PHASE 2: CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE FINDINGS

Dickoff, James and Wiedenbach 1968) survey list as tools for conceptualization ; namely, agent, recipient, context, dynamics, procedures, and terminus.



PHASE 3: DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Was conducted in accordance with Namibia Qualification Authority.



PHASE 4: IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

**Researcher was a Facilitator
During these phases**

Implementation

Participants : Women in Custody

Context : Correctional facilities

Content of Educational Programme: Psychological aspect, socio – economical, legal and ethical aspect and re- integration process

Teaching and learning activities : Adult

Evaluation:

Evaluation

1. Structure of the programme
2. Content
3. Approaches
4. Process
5. teaching and learning approaches

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- The study is unique in the sense that it provided information about extraordinary experiences of women who had dumped and / or committed infanticide. The study developed a training programme to the field of nursing as a unique contribution as well to the field of rehabilitation for correctional services. This study also accomplished its basic objective by developing, implementing, and evaluating the psychosocial training programme for successful reintegration of the inmates into the society.
- Further three recommendations were made namely that **correctional facilities** strengthen its existing training and education system in prison in order to properly rehabilitate the women; on **research** that more study to be done in order to facilitate the understanding the role and responsibilities to mitigate or address the problem of baby dumping and infanticide;
- Additional future analyses to examine **reintegration** success in broader terms by using longitudinal mixed methods approaches

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