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2022 CASE STUDY

2022 REPORT NOZI*

LEARNER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

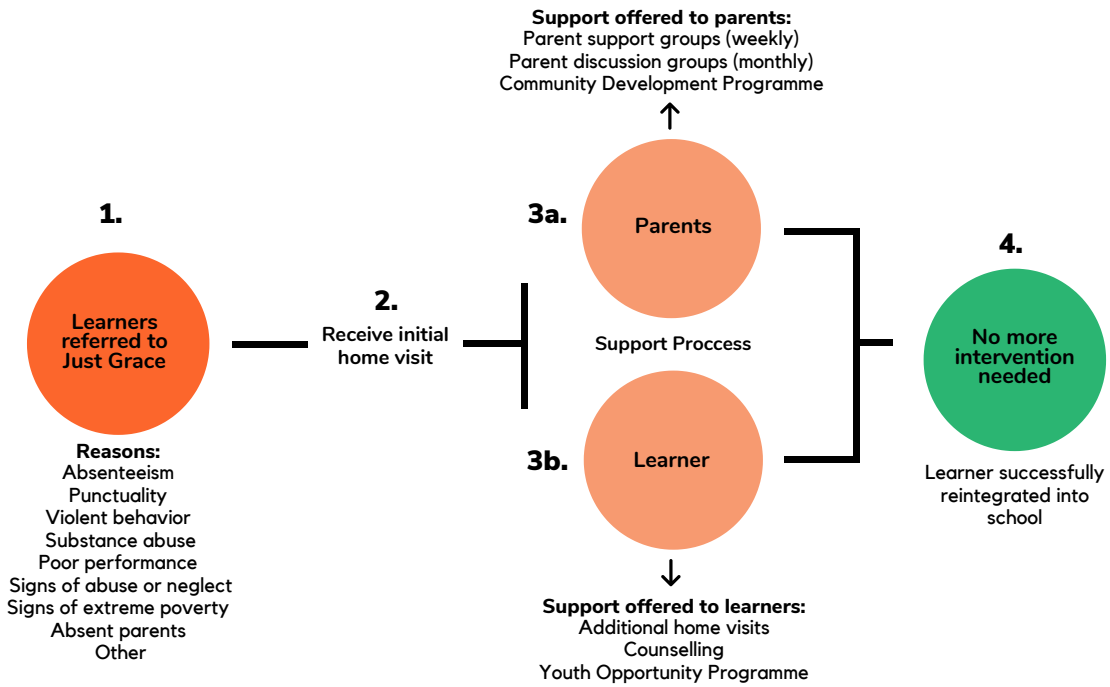
BACKGROUND

Following an incident where she burst into tears during a lesson, Nozi* was referred to our social worker, by the head of the School Based Support Team at Isilimela High School.

Nozi disclosed that she had been raped by her neighbour when she was very young. She did not remember her age when the incident happened. According to Nozi, her maternal grandmother saw that something had happened to her, however she was beaten and warned to never mention the incident to anyone. Nozi's biological mother was living in Cape Town with her husband, the father of her first born child. Nozi lived with this pain until her grandmother passed away in 2018. She then had the chance to tell her biological mother, who also did not take it seriously because she did not do anything about it.

Nozi was discriminated against by her older sister, because she was not her father's daughter. Nozi felt that her mother kept turning a blind eye on what was happening between her and her sister. The situation was pouring salt on Nozi's wound of not knowing her own father, yet even after she discovered where he was, the man showed no interest in her. This was another blow for Nozi, being rejected by her biological father. Nozi's circumstances didn't seemed to be getting any easier for her.

JUST GRACE - LEARNER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



INTERVENTION

When Nozi came to the first session she saw no reason to live because she had dropped on her school work due to her situation. Nozi was sobbing through the session because she could not live with what had happened to her.
The perpetrator was her neighbour who acts as if nothing happened. Nozi was heart broken and angry because the perpetrator had never been arrested because a case had never been reported to the South African Police Services. Nozi developed suicidal thoughts
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The social worker contacted Nozi's mother to arrange for a home visit. Mrs. V suggested meeting with the social worker at school since she was not home most of the time. Mrs. V confirmed the rape incident that Nozi disclosed after the passing of her maternal grandmother. Mrs. V expressed her disappointment on her mother's side for not informing her about the rape incident that happened to her daughter. It was a mystery because Nozi's mother did not want to open a case against the perpetrator since Nozi was the only person who knew what happened to her. They were reluctant to open a case, based on three reasons: Nozi didn't want her past to become public knowledge, they didn't want to ruin their relationship with the perpetrator's family, and they didn't believe their case would be successful if based solely on Nozi's testimony.

The social worker explained that even though they did not want to open a case because there was no evidence, such cases are familiar to the justice system of our country. Victims can open the case at any point, when they are ready to do so. Nozi insisted she simply wanted closure, by having the man admit his deeds. Her mother agreed to confront him.

Nozi's situation of feeling lonely and spending most of the time crying seemed to be getting worse. Isolating herself and crying seemed to have become her daily routine. One day she was found crying in the bathroom; the social worker decided to refer the client for medical assessment. Nozi was diagnosed with depression. Nozi received medical treatment for depression and on going sessions were continued at school with the social worker.

Nozi is living a meaningful and promising future through our intervention and the involvement of her biological mother in the process.

OUTCOME

Sobbing right through the session happened for quite some time, so it was a bright day when a smile appeared on Nozi's face. Nozi felt restored and self-determined at the end of the intervention. She plays with other children and runs around school corridors with a smile on her face.

Nozi is looking forward to writing trial examinations and do her best academically, because she wants to further her studies in a teaching career with the University of Fort- hare. Nozi is living a meaningful and promising future through our intervention and the involvement of her biological mother in the process.

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