



# **Coping of Families of Children with Disabilities in Zimbabwe: Vulnerable Groups and Structural Violence:**

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# Binga - Zimbabwe



# Background

## Structural violence

- Societal hinderances from reaching full potential by social structures – inequitable social arrangements (Galtung – 1969)
- Higher death and disability rates (Gilligan – 1997)
- Loss of life (unequal distribution) (Høivik – 1977)
- Poverty and injustice (Farmer – 2004)

# Objective

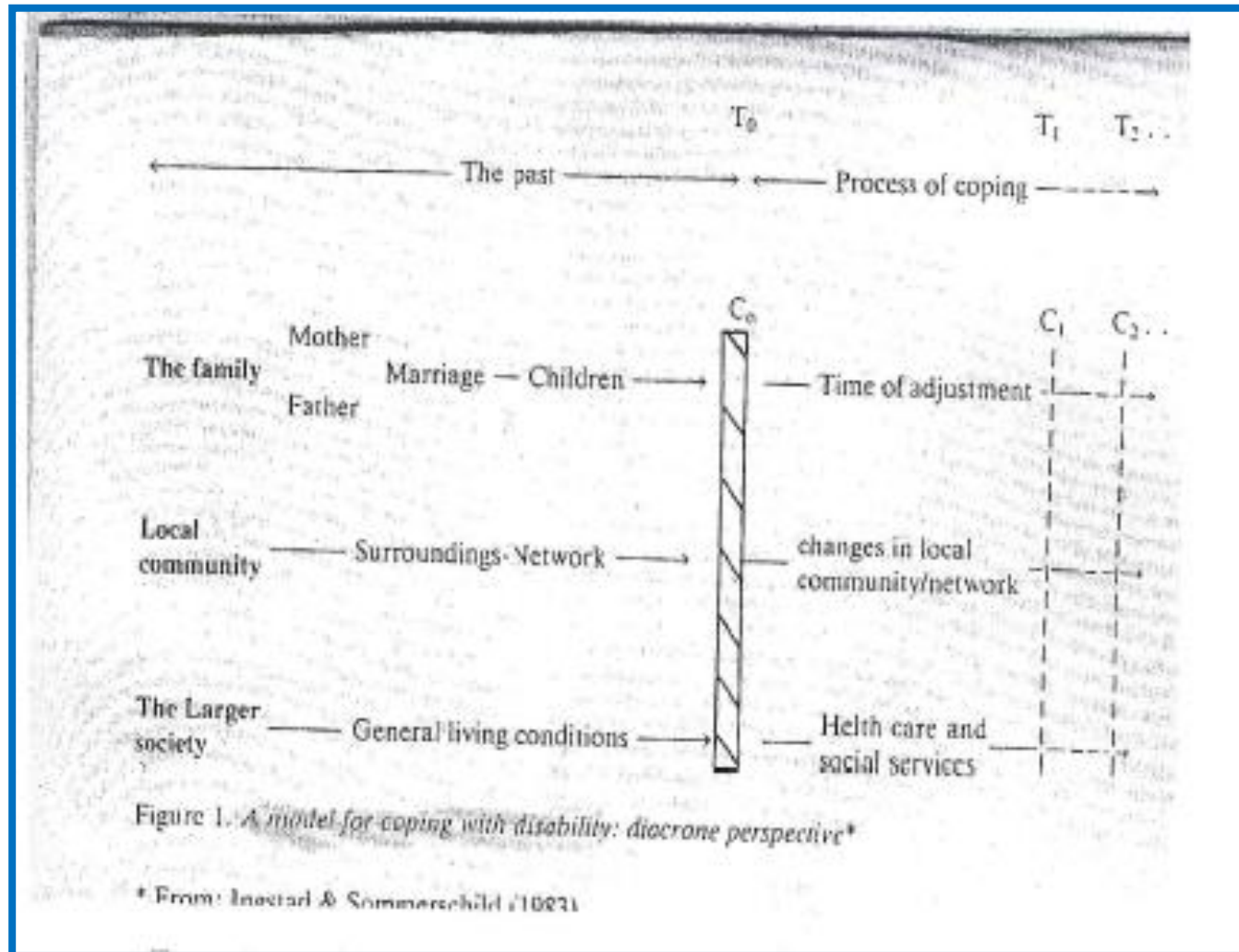
To explore structural violence  
and

how it affects families of children with disabilities

# Methodology

- Longitudinal-qualitative-ethnographic 2005 – 2013
- 53 Families – children with cerebral palsy
  - 1 – 13 years of age
  - In-depth interviews
  - Participant observation
  - Focus group discussions

# Model for Coping with Disability





# Zimbabwe



- **Population – 13 million**
- 67 % rural areas
- 33 % urban areas
- **Life expectancy- 50 years**
- HIV prevalence 15%
- Disability prevalence – 7% (900 000)
- Children disability prevalence – 4.7%
- 25% disability ( birth – 5 years of age)

# Disability causes

- Disease
- Congenital /perinatal
- Accidents
- Rural areas – congenital (25%)



# Types of disability

- Physical disability 31%
- Visual impairment 26%
- Multiple disorders 13%
- Hearing impairment 12%
- Intellectual disability 8%
- Mental illness 6%



## The Tonga of Binga

- Ethnic minority (population 300 000)
- Internally displaced - Zambezi valley (1958)
- No compensation
- No development
- Poverty
- Hunger

# Results:

## Factors affecting coping:

- Displacement from the river valley
- Lack of development to the district
- Food shortages
- Lack of water and sanitation
- Education
- Health care

# Structural Violence

- Forced displacement
- Lack of compensatory structures
- Denial of food relief
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of development
- Lack of social services

# Conclusion

Human rights violations:

- Discrimination
- Exploitation
- Injustice

# Thank You

