



UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

Investigating the benefits of Family learning (FL) with parents. By Chinenye Lumenze. Bsc. (Hons) Child and Family Health and Wellbeing. Supervisor: Mark Ball. November 3, 2021.

### Introduction

“As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live” (JPPII).

### Study aim and Objective

This study investigates the benefits of Family Learning (FL) with parents. It seeks to establish how FL can be used as a tool to address poverty, promote health and provide quality education for all.



### Study context

Inspired by the Nigerian situation. Where poverty and deprivation abound. Some manage to excel. Some cannot excel.

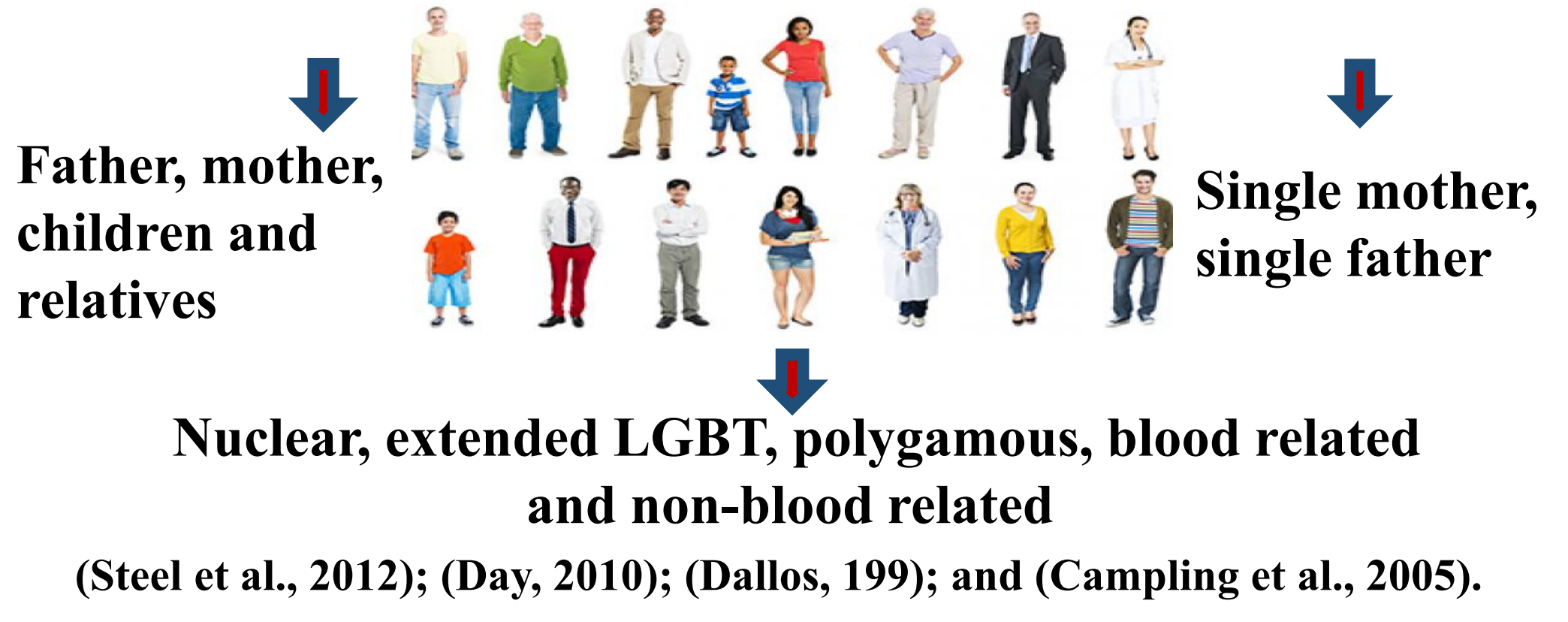
### Methodology

This study reviews past and present literature on how family learning can empower children and parents to manage issues that affect their lives.

### The concept of the family

Learning begins from the family, from where every individual emerges (Hammond and Gough, 2000). The family is a debated concept. However, Day (2010) define the family as a collection of people with a shared interest.

The family is the first learning institution where children learn to live from parents and elders (Hammond and Gough, 2000). Family dynamics and culture expand children's educational experiences and provide learning opportunities that improve family relationships, cognitive skills in children, family health, and wellbeing (Carpentieri, 2012); (Bronfenbrenner,1979/1999); (Marjoribanks, 1996); (Desforges and Abouchaar, 2003).

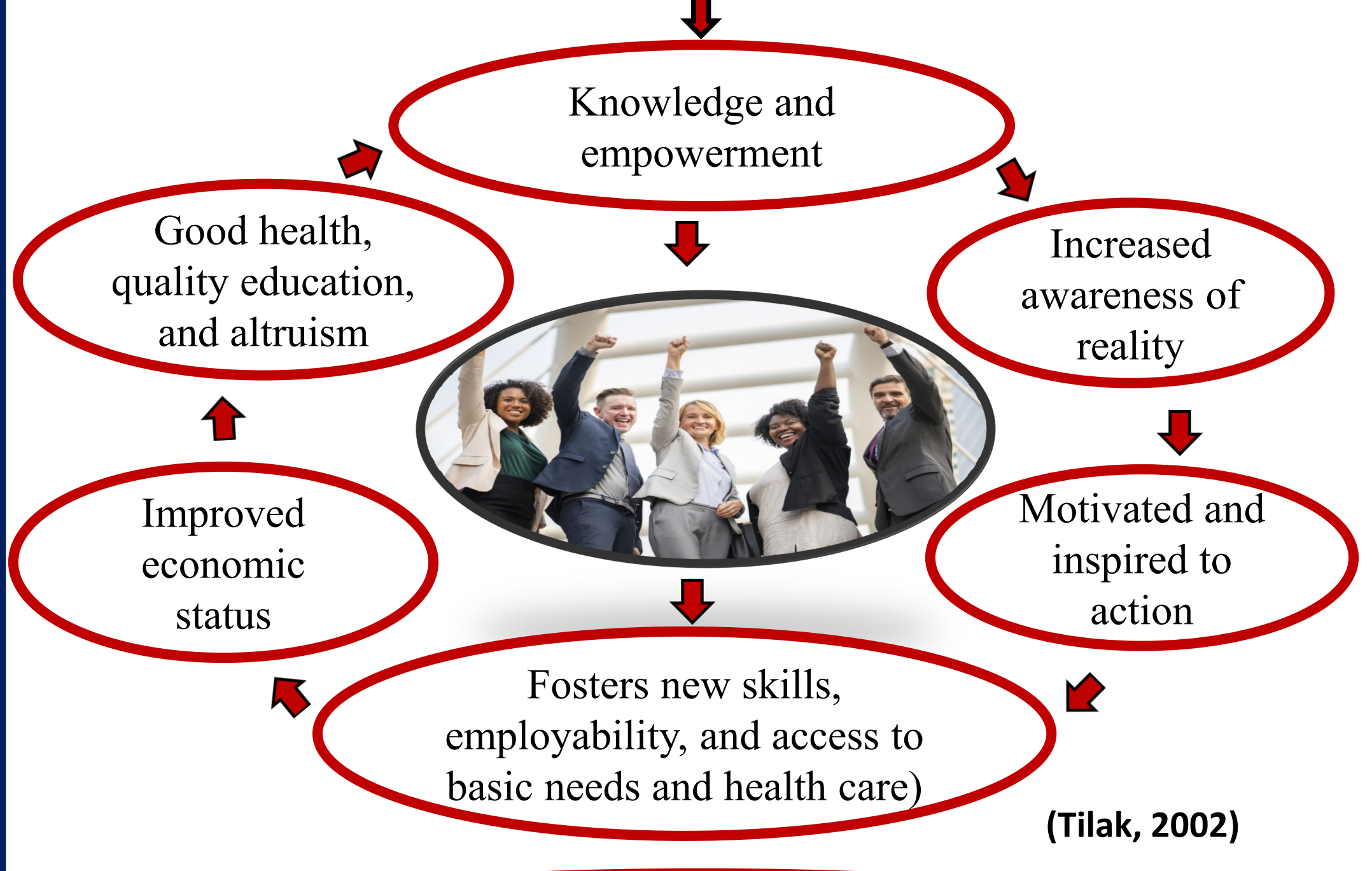


### The concept of Family Learning (FL)



FL is an informal education where parents engage in learning activities such as reading, storytelling, and games with their children. FL has been identified to empower parents and children to take actions that can improve their economic status, health, and literacy (Hammond and Gough, 2000). FL can motivate and inspire children to acquire knowledge, life skills, awareness of situations, and confidence to make decisions and question situations (Boatwright and Midcal, 2019).

### The impact of family learning on poverty, health, wellbeing and education



### Barriers to effective FL

Lack of knowledge, time and funds, incompetence and perceived gender role from culture and religion (Laal, 2011); (Ghate et al., 2000).



### Conclusion and Recommendations

Family learning is a powerful emancipatory instrument that can inspire passion and aspiration for a viable socioeconomic state, good health, wellbeing, quality education, and lifelong learning opportunities. Learning with parents can empower children with the knowledge that refines thoughts, attitudes, and behaviours that build a better society. This study reveals that adopting approaches that connect schools and families can promote FL, curb FL barriers and expand learning experiences for children and parents. Approaches that Evidence wider benefits of FL in the UK and other developed countries are seen in studies by the Scottish Government (2016) and the department for business innovation and skills (2012).Meanwhile, conversations around strategies to attain the developing countries' goals are unrealistically long (Early and Scott, 2010). Thus, to contribute significantly to the SDGs, a collaborative effort with realistic actions within contextual realities of each country through FL is recommended (Grindle, 2004).

### Study Limitations and strength

This study is based on secondary data, and the studies consulted could have been influenced by the researchers' positionality and interpretation of the narratives. However, the various studies reviewed provide rich findings that outweigh the limitations. Nevertheless, a primary study is recommended to capture up-to-date data on FL.

### References

Boatwright, P. and Midcal, L. (2019). The effects of poverty on lifelong learning: Important lessons for educators. Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin, 85(3), pp.52-57. Available at: https://www.dkgnj.org/uploads/2/2/3/1/22313516/2019\_jour\_85-3.pdf#page=52. (Accessed: 08/08/2021). Carpentieri, J.D. (2012). Family learning: a review of the research literature. A report prepared for NIACE.. Day, R.D. (2010) Introduction to family processes. 5th edn. New York, New York; Hove, England: Routledge. Photos and images (AU). Licensed under CC BY-SA-NC. derby.ac.uk/urss