

**CHALLENGES OF “REINTEGRATION” OF ZIMBABWEAN FOREIGN
NATIONALS INTO SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY: A CASE STUDY OF
ALEXANDRA TOWNSHIP**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Physical disability encompasses a complex multi-dimensional phenomenon within the context of a person's life childhood and adulthood. Disability covers a wide and diverse range of disabling conditions.

Aim of the study: The aim of the study was to explore and describe the experiences of physical-disability acquired in adulthood.

Methodology: The study adopted qualitative research approach, exploratory and descriptive design. Snowball sampling method was adopted to select seven participants who were interviewed by means of semi-structured face-to-face interviews. In order to analyse data, Tesch eight steps of analyzing qualitative data was employed.

Results: It was found that experiences of physical disabled adults replete with daily difficulties marked by isolation, loneliness, social disapproval and rejection. Being physical disabled was accompanied with difficulties marked with, feeling of sadness and dejection which was their daily companions. However, the participants found strength and solace from support groups and religious structures which strengthen individuals who acquired physical disability at adulthood.

Conclusion: Physical disability acquired in adulthood is accompanied with changes that bring about different difficulties in personal and social life. As a result adults with that experience are left with no choice but adopting coping strategies that assist them to continue with life positively.

Recommendation: The study recommends conducting seminars/awareness where civil society and other community based stakeholders and government departments are orientated on the rights of persons with disabilities. Through dissemination of the findings of this study, the researcher hopes that strong message can be conveyed to all stakeholders in disability to ensure mainstreaming of disability in all spheres of life.

Keywords: Adulthood, Experiences, Physical disability