



Nursing Education
Auxiliary Nurse



University of Venda



Poverty Alleviation Programme
Auxiliary Nurse

**EXPERIENCES OF AUXILIARY NURSES WHO TRAINED
THROUGH THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME
REGARDING NURSING PROFESSION IN VHEMBE DISTRICT,
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

by

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ABSTRACT

In 2003, the Limpopo Department of Health and Social Welfare/Development (DoHSD) introduced a system to train children from poor families as auxiliary nurses as a poverty alleviation strategy in the province. The programme was aimed at targeting the needy, those who depended on social grants for a living, were orphaned or child headed family. It is almost ten years hence and their experiences of being nurses have never been explored. The purpose of this study was to explore the experiences of auxiliary nurses who trained through the poverty alleviation programme regarding the nursing profession. A qualitative approach was used. The population of participants in this study consisted of all auxiliary nurses who were trained under the poverty alleviation programme in all seven public hospitals of Vhembe District in the Limpopo Province, namely, Tshilidzini, Elim, Siloam, Malamulele, Louis Trichardt, Donald Frazer and Musina. The primary method of data collection was through face-to-face individual using semi-structured interviews. Fifteen participants were interviewed at the public hospitals in Vhembe District of Limpopo Province. Data were collected until no new information emerged. Tesch's open-coding method of data analysis was adopted. To establish trustworthiness of the study, Guba's model was used. This model used four criteria for assessing the value of the findings of the qualitative research: credibility, applicability, consistency, and confirmability. Permission to conduct the research was obtained from the relevant stakeholders. Ethical considerations were assured, namely, confidentiality and informed consent was obtained from all the participants. During data analysis the following three themes emerged: (1) Views towards the nursing profession, (2) Views towards patients, (3) Interpersonal relationship between auxiliary nurses and the ward staff. Recommendations that would be beneficial and relevant to the health professionals and to the participants were made based on the analysis of data relating to direct suggestions or requests made by participants, and those determined by the researcher and supervisors. Possible new topics for research have also been suggested.

Keywords: nursing, poverty, orphans, auxiliary nurses, support, patients, supervisors.