

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Interview questions concerned with the key experiential areas pertinent to the research study (the questions need not necessarily follow the sequence as suggested below, as answers to later questions might occur earlier).

1. Questions related to personal details:
Age, marital status, education level, employment history, duration of VI, visual ability.
2. Questions related to experienced emotions, attitudes and reactions to loss of sight:
2A. How did you feel when you lost your sight?
2B. How do you feel now?
(Focusing on issues of acceptance, adjustment, and the concept of time heals).
3. Questions of emergent needs:
3A. What are your needs as a VI person?
3B. Do you feel that your needs have changed over time?
3C. Are your needs being satisfied?
3D. How do you experience your satisfied and unsatisfied needs?
(Focusing on physical and emotional needs).
4. Questions related to rehabilitation:
4A. How did you experience the rehabilitation course?
5. Questions on support from family:
5A. How did your family experience your loss of sight?
5B. How do they feel now, and do they support you?
6. Questions on support from society:
6A. Is society aware of VI issues?
7. What does your loss of sight mean to you?

APPENDIX B

Letter to Optima College for permission to do interviews and to obtain contact names of ex-rehabilitees.

Fontainebleau
2032
23 June 2001

Acting Director Optima College
PO Box 11149
Hatfield
0028

Dear Dr. Schoeman,

I am presently busy with research for my doctorate degree in psychology at Unisa. As a totally blind person myself, I am interested to see how adventitiously visually impaired adults experience their loss of sight and what their needs are.

Because of the nature of Optima, namely, that there are present at the same time both adventitiously visually impaired adults undergoing rehabilitation and ex-rehabilitees undergoing other courses, it would be a perfect place to do some of my research.

I am doing a phenomenological research study so the interviews are unstructured but will focus on the following issues: Questions related to personal details (duration of visual impairment and visual ability etc.); Descriptions of the meaning of loss of sight; Description of past and present feelings following loss of sight. The experienced needs of the person, are they being met and have they changed over time; The reactions and support of family members and society to the loss of sight.

It is envisaged that 10 adventitiously visually impaired adults will be interviewed for the research study. Being phenomenological research, it is impossible to say how long the tape-recorded interviews will last. I will however, interview the persons over the week-end so that there will be no interference with the rehabilitation programme. The nature of the research study involves follow-up interviews, so I am looking for white South African adults living in the Gauteng area.

It would be greatly appreciated if I could obtain permission to do some of the interviews at Optima. I trust that this research will be beneficial to both the visually impaired and society in general because any new insight and knowledge that can inform the adventitiously visually impaired, society in general and professionals involved in the field of visual impairment about the experiences and needs of the real world of adventitious visual impairment can only but enhance the lives of all concerned.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,

Shirley Murray.

APPENDIX C

Letter from Optima.

Our Ref.

Ons Verw.

26 September 2001

**Ms Shirley Murray
PO Box 1177
FONTAINEBLEAU, 2032**

Dear Ms Murray

RESEARCH – STUDENTS AT OPTIMA COLLEGE

I would like to confirm that the Management of the SANCB and Optima College has granted you permission to do research at Optima College.

However, should you wish to interview students or involve them in any other way in your research, it may only happen after the purpose and process have been explained to them in full and with their full consent.

We would like to wish you success with the project.

Sincerely yours

Henoch Schoeman
**Henoch Schoeman
DIRECTOR**