

**PROFESSIONAL NURSES' PERCEPTION OF
NURSING MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE IN A
GENERAL HOSPITAL SETTING**

by

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DECLARATION

I declare that **PROFESSIONAL NURSES' PERCEPTION OF NURSING MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE IN A GENERAL HOSPITAL SETTING** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

.....

SIGNATURE
(KATLEHO GERMINA LETHOBA)

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DATE

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ABSTRACT

Recognising the enormous challenges in South Africa confronting the nursing of the mentally ill, the project was conducted in a public hospital in Gauteng. The purpose of the research was to describe professional nurses' perception of nursing mentally ill people in a general hospital setting and was carried out amongst a sample size of 124 professional nursing staff using a self-administered tool.

The study looked at four different types of perceptions guided by categories of conceptual framework proposed by Mavundla (2000:1569-1570), namely perception of self, perception of patients, perception of environment and perceived feelings.

The study found that the majority of professional nurses have a predominantly positive self- perception of nursing mentally ill people in a general hospital, although a significant number have a negative perception of patients, the nursing environment and perceived feelings. Lack of knowledge, skill and experience affect the nursing care of mentally ill people in the general hospital.

Key words

General hospital, nursing, mentally ill people, quantitative research.

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Dedication

I dedicate this dissertation to my parents the
late
Sechocha Lethoba
and
Masechaba Lethoba