

**AN ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED
IN THE COMMUNITY OF DISTRICT 22 (SUB-DISTRICT 222)
KWAZULU-NATAL**

by

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submitted in part fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of

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SUPERVISOR: MRS MM VAN DER MERWE

JOINT SUPERVISOR: DR A PEROLD

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DECLARATION

I declare that **AN ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED IN THE COMMUNITY OF DISTRICT 22 (SUB-DISTRICT 222), KWAZULU-NATAL** 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
(Mrs J Webster)

.....
DATE

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Summary

The system of care for persons suffering from mental retardation is in a state of upheaval. Considering the mentally handicapped as holistic beings, this study explored and assessed the needs of those residing in the community of District 22 (sub-district 222), KwaZulu-Natal, thus facilitating the planning of care and care facilities for these individuals to enable them to function optimally in the community. To accomplish this purpose, specific objectives were formulated.

A quantitative, exploratory and descriptive study based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory was carried out, using 167 respondents. The study revealed that despite being mentally retarded, they were still regarded as valuable members of the community, their needs did not differ from the needs of others in the rest of the world and that mental retardation is still rated low in the prioritization of health problems, hence the lack of resources and support needed for the rehabilitation of such persons.

KEY TERMS

Needs, assessment, mental retardation, community, physical needs, psychological needs, spiritual needs, emotional needs, community resources.