

University of South Africa etd – Hlongwa, E. N.(2003)

**Diplomates' perceptions of their
psychiatric nursing component of
the four-year comprehensive programme**

by

Esther Nelisiwe Hlongwa

submitted in fulfilment of the requirements

for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

in the

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STUDIES

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUPERVISOR: DR VJ EHLERS

JOINT SUPERVISOR: MRS MM VAN DER MERWE

NOVEMBER 2003

Student number: 0675-153-9

D E C L A R A T I O N

I declare that **DIPLOMATES' PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR PSYCHIATRIC NURSING COMPONENT OF THE FOUR-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME** 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
(EN HLONGWA)

.....

DATE

DIPLOMATES PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR PSYCHIATRIC NURSING COMPONENT OF THE FOUR-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME

STUDENT NUMBER: 0675-153-9
STUDENT: Esther Nelisiwe Hlongwa
DEGREE: Master of Arts
DEPARTMENT: Health Studies, University of South Africa
SUPERVISOR: Dr VJ Ehlers
JOINT SUPERVISOR: Mrs MM van der Merwe

Summary

The study attempted to identify R425 diplomates' perceptions of their psychiatric competencies. An exploratory descriptive survey investigated specific strengths and weaknesses of the R425 diplomates in the psychiatric clinical units in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, as perceived by the diplomates themselves.

The diplomates were reportedly competent in performing numerous, but not all cognitive, psychomotor and affective skills addressed by this survey. The R425 diplomates perceived themselves to be incompetent in designing and implementing rehabilitation programmes/workshops, managing community projects, conducting research and managing crises in psychiatric nursing units.

KEY TERMS:

Clinical nursing, comprehensive nursing course, newly qualified nurses, nurses' competencies, nursing education, psychiatric nursing/nurses, psychiatric nursing competencies.

University of South Africa etd – Hlongwa, E. N.(2003)

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to complete this study, and I give Him my thanks and praise.

I would also like to give my thanks to the following persons for their invaluable support and unending encouragement:

- ◆ Dr VJ Ehlers, my supervisor and Mrs MM van der Merwe, my joint supervisor who devoted their precious time in guiding and encouraging me during the course of the study.
- ◆ My two children, you made my dream come true in many ways.
- ◆ My friends and my colleagues at work, who encouraged me, never gave up supporting and kept on believing in me.
- ◆ The Department of Health, KwaZulu-Natal Province, for permission granted to conduct the research.
- ◆ The nurse managers for allowing me to do research at their hospitals.
- ◆ Mrs T Mkhize from Townhill Hospital and Mrs T Ngcobo from Fort Napier Hospital who made the collection of data possible.
- ◆ R425 psychiatric professional nurses who completed questionnaires.
- ◆ Mrs Sharon Gounden for typing the initial drafts of this research report
- ◆ Mr O Kilpert for providing the SPSS analysis of the data.
- ◆ Mrs R Coetzer for finalising the typing of the dissertation.
- ◆ DENOSA for granting me financial assistance to cover some of the costs incurred by conducting the study.

Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to my
late father and mother,
my children Gugelethu and Mbalenhle
and my family and friends