

Nursing Students' Perception of Clinical Learning Experiences

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ABSTRACT The purpose of this paper was to obtain the nursing students' perceptions of clinical learning experiences. Nursing students following the course leading to registration as a nurse general, psychiatric and community) and midwife at the University of Venda constituted the target population. The paper used a qualitative descriptive design. A non-probability purposive sampling was employed to sample 45 participants variably from each level of study. Data were collected through focus group interviews. Participation was voluntary. Findings indicate that nursing students are aware of the value of the contribution that clinical learning experiences make to their development of professional socialisation. Nursing students regard a patient as the central focus of their clinical learning experiences. However, proper guidance and support from their superiors appears to fall short. There is a need to assist both students and supervisors to increase their understanding with regard to their roles and mutual expectations in the clinical field.