

Relevance of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Indicators in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A South African Perspective

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ABSTRACT The outbreak of COVID-19 has seriously affected humanity. Disruptions to social, family, educational and work settings have had devastating effects on livelihoods and the general well-being of individuals and communities. This critical review sampled 33 empirical studies in order to look at the use of Maslow's Hierarchy in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa. The main objective of the study was to offer a critical perspective, using descriptive and interpretative summaries of the data, on the relevance of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, to the South African population, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The hierarchy highlighted challenges experienced by the majority of the South African population. The social issues suffered by the South African population directly relate to poverty, education and unemployment, which means that the majority, are unlikely to have high self-esteem and cannot self-actualise to become the best person they can. Future research should consider reviewing foundational indicators of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs in South Africa.