# Data D 4- Theme 1 Sub-theme 3

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| **Theme1: Self-awareness, grit and optimism as factors influencing student success** | | |
| **Sub-theme 3: Participant background and nature of adversities faced and overcame** | | |
| **Category** | **Participant** | **Quotation** |
| **Participant Background** | Zolani | "I was born in the Eastern Cape. In the rural village…. I got to experience how it’s like to live in the rural and how it’s feels when you go to school…. then I moved to the township. Life was quite different from there. But, then in the townships, I went to a primary, it's still in the townships too... Then I went to, for secondary, I went to a township secondary which is, yah no, it was a nice school for me" |
| "The school didn't have the resources, that’s number one, it's in the townships. The crime in the school, it's quite high. I think now things have changed. The teachers sometimes, you find that they don't attend classes" |
| "There was no motivation from the community, uhm, two, most of the time you are being encouraged to actually not go to school. You are encouraged to just maybe finish your school at grade nine and then go and do, uhm major courses, and then you become, you work in the mine" |
| Terry | "I am from a Township from Bronkhorstspruit. That's where I did my grade 6 to my Matric…. that high school it never produced any of the students which will say were going to varsity and all that stuff, like they hardly had those people" |
| "I grew up in the area whereby my mindset was like 'The aim is to just finish school and after finishing school, find someone have children and that’s it. Go and find a job and then that’s it'" |
| Gwen | "We stayed in town when until I was like three years old in Mafikeng…. but then we move to another town in Limpopo and after then my dad got a job in Cape Town" |
| "When I was around 8 the year after my parents got divorced or 9 I was" |
| "We didn’t have much money and through the divorce my mom lost everything cause my dad took everything, he got houses, cars, money he got everything so my mom only got me because she fought for me for custody so she got custody of me everything else my dad took, so basically my mom had to start from scratch" |
| "Luckily one of my I call her my sister well she’s my cousins... which I basically take as a sister and she was in a primary school .... in the Clairmont suburbs where we were school and the whole thing it was like if you’ve got family in the school you get a discount, again it was a semi-private school in the suburbs that type of thing" |
| "I went to high school what I got was a bursary because of the church I went to so I got a sixty percent bursary and that is the only way they could afford my school fees for the private school" |
| Thembi | "It's like a township but I also grew up in the rural areas, growing up with my grandparents. Where there was no water, electricity and we literally had to go to the river to get water and go to the forest to go get water. And it was deep rural KZN " |
| "When I started at the school it was one of the best schools in the area.... When I started it was predominantly an Indian school. When it was built it was an Indian school and overtime there were more black students coming into the school. The education quality was good, I won’t lie" |
| "When my dad lost his job. It was a brief conversation I had with my parents where they were telling me that things won't be the same anymore. It didn't register at the beginning and I was like I didn't understand what they were saying. We moved from a 3-bedroom house to a 1 room. Not one bedroom but 1 room where it was the kitchen, the bedroom in one room and when we moved there, I knew things just got different" |
| "Briefly elaborating on high school, it was an amazing school. It was an academic and leadership academy so they focussed a lot on academics and leadership. And I the leadership focus of the academy helped me develop into the woman I am today, the confidence, the communication skills, the open mindedness, the global minded person that I am.... It was a school of excellence and it was a scholarship, so, yeah" |
| Mandisa | "From a very young age I stayed in aim a township and then my dad got an opportunity to work in a bigger mine here mo. North West, so we moved from Gauteng to here North West, and when I got there it was a suburb vibe community" |
| "I would say that I was privileged you know because we could afford a lot of things, back then when I was in primary, like they took me to uhm private school….. so it was still a private school until grade twelve" |
| "I was in grade ten, that’s where things started to be shaky financially at home you see……. from there it has been a shaky road financially at home because that period where we got disturbed my father couldn’t recover from the job that he had and he couldn’t afford the things that he used to have, so, it humbled us" |
| Lebo | "Its 2 different communities, it was in (a township in Pretoria)" |
| "Overall, I think everyone there we couldn’t dream big because of the situation that was around us. And then the reason I’m also saying that is once we moved into the RDP the mentality changes there. We were squatting like squatter camps, you don’t have space to even plant, but when you go to your own space you start doing things like oh okay we can also have burglar guards like why didn’t we have this there, okay it’s a house a roof. Its only there that we started to think bigger, but the schools there we didn’t have infrastructure.... I remember I used to sit in a 3-legged chair, like, I remember I sat on that chair for the whole year" |
| Khensani | "Khensani is a girl from Limpopo" |
| "I was coming from a township school which was considered one of those poor township schools" |