# Data D7- 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** |
| **Support received** | Thembi | "I would pop by my lecturer’s office to make my face familiar. But I really engaged with the lecturers and engaged with the work. This time I said I will engage with the work, I will track my progress" |
| "I started seeing a psychologist that year. I was like whatever I was going through last year I cannot go through again and I had to also figure out what personally was happening with me during that time" |
| Zolani | "I think the biggest challenges, I think it's what every black child is facing. It’s the financial exclusion and accommodation. Well, for me, there were… it's better because I had a backup in terms of that I had a bursary for that" |
| "(Administrators) from my bursary, they were very supportive, and my parents there were supportive in terms of transporting me to, because there was this time where I didn't get accommodation I think for a month. So, my dad used to drive me every day to school" |
| Gwen | "My family were a big influence in supporting me especially my mom and my aunt Uhm they wanted the best for me obviously so everything I did they’d would be like No you can do it" |
| "So, she was my best friend (from school) so both of us and we never had a competition we just both did very well in everything and we do everything together like real best friends" |
| "Then I had some teachers that did support me" |
| "Two teachers they were supportive.... my Biology teacher and .... my English teacher. So, like even like .... he wrote me recommendations letter for all of these bursaries in schools and all of that …… so I remember those two teachers were my biggest uhm almost, they were my biggest supporters they were my biggest cheerleaders in my school" |
| "I remember one of the first people I met was (Psychologist)…. she told me that I’m an extrovert so I get my energy from people how I get my energy is about being in the library even if people aren’t talking as long as there are people around it’s how I get my energy" |
| Mandisa | "I would say, also my friend, I had a few friends close to me, I didn’t have a squad of friends, I only had like five friends. And two were closest with me and one I would literally go study with you know" |
| "I know I’m saying this a lot ne, but my sister was with me through the process, any challenges that I faced, she was there with me" |
| "Grade one to twelve it was definitely my teachers, uhm my teachers motivated me that I’m going to do well" |
| "So, my mom was still alive back then" |
| Terry | "So, my support structure okay, I will say the most one is my parents and my family as a whole they will make sure that I have everything that I needed to continue like, to continue studying in my academics life, and to continue moving" |
| "Mamelodi support structure, the like of (Psychologists in student advising) and the lecturers also, they were so welcoming in making you… in assisting you in making you to study more, and study further and studying harder" |
| "I got a sponsor from my community, the company from my community was willing to offer me money" |
| Khensani | "I thank God that ended up getting NSFAS for studying and I was able to complete my studies" |
| "I found that I failed. And I remember calling my mom in front of the library main campus crying, and my mom was like no do you still have classes? I was like I don’t know, I was even confused. She was like you are a mess just go back to your place and when you get there please call me, I was like okay." |
| "I had a lot of support from my uncle who stays in Pretoria as well, so he tried like pushing me like okay let’s do this. Come over let me help you" |
| Lebo | "I didn’t want to live in poverty, that then and seeing my uncle doing things for us |
| during my matric there was 1 teacher, I think that one was God sent. He was different compared to the rest of the teachers" |