# Data D6- 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** | | |
| **Push to succeed** | Gwen | "Like I need for me I think there is an internal need to be affirmed, there is an internal need to be recognised. Uhm and so for me I’m like in order to do that I must be the one to work my hardest cause also another thing is no one owes me anything but I owe it to myself to try my best" |
| "I have that complex where I don’t like it that people do things for me" |
| "My biggest-biggest motivation was to get my family out of the struggle they have. Even now I’m working so hard in order to have my family be comfortable because you know every month I can’t have them all struggling with money" |
| "My biggest-biggest motivation was to get my family out of the struggle they have |
| I want to leave this world having made some kind of impact uhm so for me those are my internal motivators" |
| Khensani | "But I thank God that ended up getting NSFAS for studying and I was able to complete my studies" |
| Mandisa | "My teachers motivated me… that I’m going to do well because I was the top ten student who was doing well in class, especially in economics and business" |
| **Aiding values** | Khensani | "I was depressed but not like the other people explain cause my depression was different because I had this thing at the back of my mind like I have to make it, I have to push even though I failed" |
| "My belief in myself, because I told myself that that next year I am reducing these modules and passing the module that I failed" |
| "Always saying encouraging words to myself" |
| "I try to work through my challenges. When I need to talk I find a person to talk to. If I need academic help I find people who can help me academically" |
| Thembi | "When I got my result that I failed it then it sunk that oh my goodness this just happened…. I went to all my lecturers and I told them I am going to be repeating anatomy, I don’t know what happened last year, I can’t even tell you what I know and what I don’t know. They advised me to start preparing in advance before the classes started and I said I will do that" |
| Gwen | "I was like taking it from high school even that I want to succeed I, I don’t have a I almost felt like I don’t have a choice to do well I don’t have a choice but to pass, I don’t have a choice you know. So, I need to finish everything and I need to do it well" |
| "I must be the one to work my hardest cause also another thing is no one owes me anything but I owe it to myself to try my best because at least I can say I tried my best" |
| "So, I have that complex where I don’t like it that people do things for me, I like to be the one who did for myself" |
| Terry | "I didn’t have resources and all that stuff, let me see, like let me use the resources that I have to keep moving and all that stuff. And I continued doing what I was doing in my high school, I studied ahead, being ahead of time doing the work and trying to ask the questions where I don’t really understand" |
|  | "I'm that one person after writing almost every test I'll come sit down take that paper and reflect before the results even come out, take that paper, look at how did I do and try to check if there is any mistake that I made, did I miss any topic" |
| Lebo | "I didn’t pretend to be someone I am not, people knew my situation, and they knew that" |