# Data D5- 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** |
| **Challenges** | Zolani | "The biggest challenges, I think it's what every black child is facing. It’s the financial exclusion and accommodation" |
| Thembi | "Biggest challenge is for the first time in my life in tertiary, in my school life I failed. It was 2018. I failed a blog, anatomy, which I had to repeat in 2019. It was the first time failing in my entire life" |
| "The most painful thing for me was I couldn't ask for help. At some point I didn't see, at the beginning I couldn’t see I was drowning. I saw I was struggling but I didn't see how bad it was" |
| "I think I was borderline depressed as well and I felt like I was working but I wasn't working effectively" |
| Terry | "My first challenge actually it was the finances cause of like yeah I graduate. I finished my matric and then one thing for me, it was coming to UP and doing BSC" |
| Lebo | "The fact that we didn’t have money, I had to use metro rail, every day, like every day and it was far, like it was far from my place to the train station yoh, it was yoh, I don’t want to think about it" |
| "The most problem that I encountered was, I did not fit in…. people that are in varsity it’s like they knew that they were ready, and with me I think there we were only two from my school who came to UP that year, from my school, I did not know anyone" |
| Gwen | "I won nearly all the awards but the teachers said it was because another student left…… " |
| "When I was in the school where I was getting bullied" |
| "I obviously know that those teachers were bullying me I wasn’t doing as well in those subjects" |
| "I went and stayed with my aunt and uncle uh m so that’s when I felt like I lost my support…… I was emotionally abused in that house without realising it was emotional abuse uhm because they were like even if I told her like an achievement she’d be like ahh it would never be like a well done or okay that’s good" |
| Khensani | "Though I had parents who were working but I was not the only child at home. So, whatever they are working and getting they have to cover for me and my siblings and I had a brother who was in varsity as well, like there was a time when I had to run around with NSFAS" |
| "When I got to main campus it was difficult for me where the pace I was used to in Mamelodi was I think twice or three times harder than what I was used to" |
| "I didn’t know anyone on campus and also the language barrier, I’m Tsonga, most people are Pedi, Tshwana, Zulu. I ended up having to be a quiet person…. I didn’t know anyone on campus" |
| **Emotional and Psychological state** | Gwen | "I need for me I think there is an internal need to be affirmed, there is an internal need to be recognised" |
| "I started suffering from depression uhm, even that year I had a suicidal attempt, uhm so now that year was a very tough year in grade 9" |
| "I remember just, uhm so she basically I was emotionally abused in that house without realising it was emotional abuse" |
| Khensani | "I can say 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" |
| Thembi | "I was putting all the I could put. which was practically nothing because I was exhausted. I think I was borderline depressed as well and I felt like I was working but I wasn't working effectively" |