

**LIVED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE OF KENYA REGISTERED
COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING (BASIC) STUDENTS IN
MURANG'A KENYA MEDICAL TRAINING COLLEGE**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Clinical experience is recognized as the core of nursing education and quality of clinical placements is vital to the development of capable and competent professionals. The aim of this study was to investigate the experiences of Kenya Registered Community Health Nursing (basic) students during their clinical placements. The study population included nursing students in their second, third and fourth year of training in Murang'a Medical Training College which is a constituent college of Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC). The sample was drawn using purposive and convenient sampling. Data collection was done by using three FGI comprising of students in second year (n=10), third year (n=10) and fourth year (n=10) where semi structured interview schedules were used that yielded qualitative data which was audio-taped and transcribed verbatim. Data analysis was conducted through open coding and categorization. Also self-administered questionnaires completed by 137 participants were used and analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The findings of this study revealed that the perceptual experiences of students during clinical placement have mixed feelings which are both positive and negative. The positive experiences reflected in the research results were facilitated by conducive clinical environment with 95.6% (n=131) of the participants agreeing that they were welcomed, 86.2 % (n=118) were encouraged and 79% (n=109) were well oriented. The challenges students identified in this study that translated to negative experiences include; inadequate resources, use of shortcuts by staff and issues related to clinical rotation reflected through insightful comments by students during FGI. From the results of this study, the researcher recommends that the stakeholders ensure positive clinical environment by addressing the challenges faced by students during clinical placements.