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Innovative Strategies for Student Supervision: Reflection from the Supervisor

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Background: Nursing students register to universities in different disciplines. They are expected to complete a research project as part of a qualification. As a supervisor I am expected to support students and guide them during their journey from registration till completion.

Methodology: To date I have supervised more than 50 students including 10 Doctoral, 30 Masters and 10 Honours students. The aim of this paper is to share my experiences on student supervision. The research design will be self-reflection on my research journey and how innovation strategies were applied to support postgraduate students. The experiences include both students from residential and opendistance higher education institutions. The joys and challenges endured during the past ten years.

Results: I have been privileged to supervise students who are diligent and hardworking and that makes supervision easy. They were those who needed to be pushed so as to complete their research projects. In a residential university I had to adhere to the strict timetable on when students can consult. For the Open Distance University, I had to use email, my discussion forums, Skype, telephone and also meet students personally.

Conclusion: Students are unique and the strategies that you apply should be relevant to that particular students.

Biography:

Z. Z. Nkosi is a Professor from the University of South Africa (UNISA) who is passionate about nursing leadership and management. She has a vast knowledge in student supervision. More than 30 Masters and 10 Doctoral students graduated under her supervision. Presently she is a Manager for Tuition and Learner support in the College of Human Sciences, UNISA.