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# Student organisations and university experiences at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

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# Appendix A

## Coding Framework – Thematic Analysis

| Global theme | Organising theme | Code | Quote "" |
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| Wits University Community | Diversity | Backgrounds | It made me understand, the fact that, we are, in Wits, Right, and we all come from different backgrounds. I come from a shack, so and so comes from a mansion in Sandton, |
| | | Styles | I've met different peoples and different styles and everything else |
| | | Cultural mix | I think university life, I'm experiencing many things you know. Coz I'm mixed with other people, different cultures and traditions and its making me open minded. |
| | | | Sometimes people they do not understand because you are from different all those things. So maybe for an example I'm Zulu. People will think ahhh, they know Zulus do things like this. So yeah, they tease me about those things |
| | | | As I said, we are from different places. So sometimes 'yabona (you see) people tease you like, maybe you are, the place you are |

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| | | | from, maybe you are rural. All those things, maybe they undermine you because of the place you are from |
| | | (In)tolerance | I had to tolerate other people. As I said, although I was coming from a diverse environment but I was only thinking that I was the best person. But when you get to this university the influence you get is that you have to tolerate other people the way they are and so forth. I had to tolerate other people. As I said, although I was coming from a diverse environment but I was only thinking that I was the best person. But when you get to this university the influence you get is that you have to tolerate other people the way they are and so forth. |
| | | | No one is really intertwined with the other. I've been here for three years, vie never seen any Muslim kids walking with any White kids, I've never seen any White kids with any Blacks, never seen any Blacks with any Whites, never seen Jewish people with any Anglican people, never seen any Roman catholic with any Muslims, so I think, for it to be community they'd have to break those barriers of being Muslim, being Jewish, being White, being Black, being |

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| | | | Indian, being Coloured |
| | | | Because you know you won't be, in anyway discriminated against, whether your style, your views and views them, and obviously at the same time they got their own views |
| | Culture | Apathy | I worry that someone who is going to be a Constitutional Court Justice, someone who is going to be a leading CEO is apathetic |
| | | | Lack of involvement in sport when there is a soccer team here. If you look at the attendance, its dismal |
| | | | and then there seems to be a huge apathy amongst the Wits community, that's university life |
| | | | I think it influences me in a sense that I worry watching future leaders no participating |
| | | Interest in university life | University life is boring. |
| | | | To me university life was a great experience |
| | | | Okay I enjoy Wits especially, university life, its good it's a good balance between social side and the academic side and the sports |
| | | | I don't find it too stressful and I enjoy what I study and enjoy the friends that I've made |

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| | | Work and Play | I think the Wits community, we could view the Wits community as work and play |
| | | | Uhm, the Wits community. I think Wits University has a nice balance of working hard and playing. Uhm I think students are allowed to express themselves in that you've got your lectures, you study, you maintain, people are motivated. And then after your lectures you can go down the road or like across the road to one of the student pubs. |
| | Student attachment | Residence influence | Attachment. You, from a student who was staying at res. Let me start from my first year, second year and third year being in the jnr. res. You get to be att [attached]…you get to be a family. Like you don't see someone, maybe as Letsatsi but you see that person as your brother or as your friend |
| | | Friends | O yeah for sure, I mean, especially considering the number of friends I have made. Uhm. Emotional bond, yeah, yeah definitely |
| | | Through organisation | I hate to admit that but I do. I think it's based also on the organisation I'm in. |

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| | | Strictly students | If u talking about the community and u r talking about u know, students, then yes there is. But if u talking about the university itself, I really couldn't care less because I just, I just think sometimes the way the university operates is very selfish but in terms of bonding with the students, there definitely is |
| | | Patriotism | I pick my battles, so what the university community might necessarily find passion for them, it might not be something I'm really keen on. So I think that's why there's no emotional ties maybe our strengths lie in different places, therefore we tend to fight for different things. Some I do, some I don't agree with. So that creates that sort of barrier between the attached of the Wits community and myself |
| | | | The thing is that I really really share you know emotional in a sense that I'm proud when I'm outside, when I meet with other people from campuses, immediately that nostalgia and everything comes up pride, 'I'm actually from Wits' and we are like this you know. I'm a very staunch staunch Witsie and it will always be with me as I say, you know. |

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| | | | Once a Wistie, always a Witsie. I'll die one. I'll die one |
| | Student engagement | Not engaged | I mean I won't say I'm actively engaged, I would be lying to myself |
| | | Fairly engaged, not there (yet) | I think I'm connected with my fellow students and to a certain extent, the lecturers and the staff but other than that I'm not connected with the other staff and many other societies. I'm not very connected to them |
| | | | Ahhh I think I'm very engaged as much as I want to |
| | | | I'm probably not that engaged with the university in itself, community. |
| | Influence | Influencing the community | I think [I influence it] through trying to keep true to the things I stand for. Whether we are talking about my Christian beliefs, looking at, if its personality I try and stick to my eons the kind of people try and bring across. |
| | | | The kind of debates I try to have with people on campus. |

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| | | | For my part I bring a different dimension in a sense that the organisation that I am running currently I so that we want to get people talking |
| | | | I want to provoke people to talk about what's happening around them and to be away coz it is important it will affect us at the end of the day we are all eventually going to go to the work place. |
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| | | The community influences me | And it has influenced me in a sense that I think I'm learning to become selfless. I'm not there yet. I'm learning how to become selfless |
| | | | YHO!! It has influenced me in such, u don't understand, sometimes I find myself even in just a random social conversation. I just change completely, I change lanes completely, and I start talking about things that most of my friends won't understand, and, most of the time they would tell me, u know what Cathy*, we are not there, u know, they just don't understand that it has become something that I have become so passionate about u know |

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| | | | But the no part is that you know as I said, certain quotas kind of like want you to compromise your principles here and there and I refuse to do so under any circumstances, coz I need to keep my identity and my principles I cannot waiver them. |
| | | | . I'd say yes in a sense that ohh fine as I said it has made me much more open, it has made me much more social and the fact that I know what I'm going to do in life |
| | | | I say it's much more, it is, vie grown as an individual |
| | | | I've learned to become much more social. |
| | | | the way I view things vie become much more open-minded<br>Ahh the Wits community influenced me in a sense that it has made me more liberal |
| | | | So it influences me in a sense that I don't want to be like that, I want, I want to make the most out of this experience |
| | | | I am an extremely different person from when I arrived here |
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| | | Influence through student organisation | How I influence it is maybe as being a student and by running this Biological Society we going to influence it in some way by drawing more people to partake in the things we do |
| | | | Ehh I wouldn't say personally I do influence it. I do influence it though from an organisational perspective, I think I do. There way I do influence it is based on the goals of the *constitution, Freedom Charter* of what needs to be realised |
| | | | : I think, the thing is that last year I was a mere subscriber and the society game me a platform to reach a much broader audience |
| | | | I think through ABSIP to, at least in my opinion, make a difference in some one's life |
| | | | You bring in a speaker to, not everyone might be touched by that, I remember I was asked after the *investment forum*, do I do it for the money, no I don't do it for the money. And then they asked what if there would only be 10 people that attend. I'm like that's fine, as long as one person receives something from a speaker and |

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| | | | they are able to spark a conversation with their friends |
| | | | We also bring in, you know, fun, you know |
| Well-being | Experiences of stress | Stressors | How I felt when I had stress is that it's a painful part but once you are overloaded with work, you are behind, you are stressed. |
| | | | Usually it's during exam times. Like you feel like your mind is overloaded, you feel like you are alone. |
| | | Support structures | It depends for me when I was stress, most of the time, I used to call at home. Sometimes I used to go at home every weekend. Then I would be able to relieve stress. Come back on Monday fresh and continue |
| | | | I would say that, you know what its Friday let me go to CAF. I know I will meet people that I know will be in this church and after church like I will do a lot of things. Like I will even forget that when I left my room I had some sort of a stress or any conflict. So when I go back in my room I will go back with, like I will be |

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| | | | fresh. I can even start to study or do anything that I was supposed to be doing back then |
| | | | Uhm, Just, Chilling out with your friends, sport is a good stress reliever, not allowing others to push you beyond what you think you need to do |
| | | | I think, okay, talk with friends, like share ideas. When you feel like now I'm too I'm stressed, just relax and take some break and go back and study. |
| | | | tried to use the advantage of talking to people, trying to consult with people on anything which is happening in your life |
| | | Responses to stress | While u r still behind u can't do anything because of that stress. So u find a person based on that stress, he is behind but he still not catching up with work. You find yourself wondering around and sitting with friends. And not doing the work which is supposed to be done while you are still behind based on that stress |
| | | | If you don't pass that thing you feel like you are a failure in life. |

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| | | | Look there are times where it was very frustrating and very ehh, it can be quite depressing at time coz you trying your hardest, you stressed pout but you still not getting something right. So frustrating, depressed, angry, yeah |
| | | | tried to use the advantage of talking to people, trying to consult with people on anything which is happening in your life |
| | | | I cow up and go to my own space |
| Student organisations | Benefits | Networking | I won't say I knew most of these people, all of them outside ABSIP but it has allowed me to cross a threshold of networking |
| | | | But I think its overall positive. You get to learn to do new things, you meet new people. |
| | | | Uhm, express yourself, branch yourself, network with people from different environments, get a better understanding of how the world works and how people think and their understandings of how they see things and things like that. |
| | | | Whereas when I joined a society it, it became much more inter faculty and I got to know other people |

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| | | | As I said, last year it was much more inter-faculty thing. Law student and this and this year as I say, I'm growing, I have friends. |
| | | | Its common things, interactions, meeting different people |
| | | Learning beyond the lecture hall | I am better than someone who just came to university to get a degree and go home |
| | | | Well I live by a simple philosophy, I don't want to leave here with a piece of paper, a piece of paper isn't enough |
| | | | So if then want to engage with your books and so forth, when will you [learn to interact], remember we are here to go to a working place. In the working place you are not going to find your grandmothers there. You will find people that you do not know. So you need to start here. So the organisations and the university make you learn different types of people and so forth<br>[In the organisation]<br>You get to learn new things |
| | | | otherwise I leave one dimensional and I leave with a 90% but no social skills, no ability to relate with other people |
| | | All-roundedness | To not come here and to view everything one sided without actually evaluating and |

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| | | | looking the other side coz life has many facets |
| | | Leadership | Secondly; the organisation it was CAF, it's grown me. Leadership-wise I've learnt lot from CAF |
| | | | I can be open speaking to people about leadership and I can be able to provide clarity and direction to other people when it comes to leadership because of Wits University |
| | | | I can be a leader everywhere through CAF |
| | | | When you have to do a project, you have to do it at that space and you need to accountable for that so vie learnt when it comes to leadership the organisation has grown me as a leader |
| | | | Okay, just to learn how to be a leader coz, okay you are here for studies but the other thing u must learn is that okay after studies you must understand many thing |

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| | | Social responsibility | I think one of them is being able to sleep at night knowing that I have assisted two students, I've assisted three students in building their career. That's one thing which is really positive about being in this And especially the organisations vie joined, they are very selfless organisations. When you look into it, there's nothing actually you get in return that that you've assisted somebody. |
| | | | What can I say, I'm one of the people who want to influence other people with what I'm doing. I don't want to, I'm not selfish let me say so. I'm willing to groom other people |
| | | Understanding yourself | I Think the positive part is finding yourself. Knowing you are, really, than before |
| | | | It even streamlines where you are best in. you know that I'm good in doing this, I'm not good in doing this, this what I have to focus on in trying to make it strong. |
| | | Campus mind map | Any other ordinary student, u know, because know how to. I know where to go, I know how to fix my own challenges, you know. I know how to tackle things before they become a big problem. |
| | | | But I mean if I were to have a problem I would know where to go to and who to go to and who to talk to get my problem |

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| | | | solved |
| | | | Even if I struggle with my social life I know, like, where to go. |
| | Motivation to join | Father inspiration | Personally, one of the reasons why I wanted to be involved, it was more of personal reasons basically coz my father who grew up, he's from a disadvantaged background, he didn't have much |
| | | Ability to give time | Not necessarily giving them money but that little amount of time you can give to someone to actually help out. That's what actually motivated to actually start, giving, being involved with student organisations and things like that. |
| | | Workplace driven motivation | Okay, just to learn how to be a leader coz, okay you are here for studies but the other thing u must learn is that okay after studies you must understand many things…when you are going to work, maybe we will put you as a manager or something, you must understand how to deal with people |
| Student organisation | Disadvantages | Academic work versus student organisation | Sometimes you have to sacrifice your studies, going to meetings. Like if there will be a party or something, you have to sacrifice your time and go and do all those things |

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| | | | We have to have meetings and stuff and it does take away more time |
| | | | Juggling school work and RAG work. It's strenuous. It gets tiring sometimes. |
| | | | And as I said, everything comes at its own damage. The question is now, is you know, how do you deal with it |
| | | | Like I find myself neglecting my school work, I've got a deadline to meet with SDLU or vie got an exam or test and there's a RAG thing that needs to be done |
| | | | But from what I have seen around, people tend to get their fingers in many pies and they can't cope and that causes them to collapse, you know, and break downs and what nots and things like that |
| | | | I think it is to balance social life and academic. We are failing to do that. Some have more priority in their study but their social life, it's not functioning. Some they've got social life up there then academic life is not functioning. So it's to balance, time management. |
| | | | for me right now I'm sitting and wondering how am I going to balance my final year of study with making sure I don't let the society down |

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| | | | Most students would say that going to class is the most important thing. But once u r in university there things that you must do based on what you are affiliated to |
| | | | Deadlines, procrastination, saying I will work on ABSIP for another hour and I will do school work and that hour turns into three hours. I'm too tired, I go sleep and there is a deadline for tomorrow morning. So those are the kind of stresses |
| | | | Having meetings off campus for ABSIP but attending, but having to miss a tutorial for that meeting and having to find excuses for missing that tutorial |
| | | | Even how do u prioritise, which one do u put first? |
| | | | Going as up even to education where you know there's a very important meeting but there's a very important lecture at the same time. How do you balance that? |
| | | | [Negative influence of student org] Time wise, its time consuming, its capital cons, its time intensive, capital intensive, labour intensive.<br>All those things, probably as a student, you should not be over indulging on |

*Name is changed to protect the participant's anonymity