



THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Exploring resilience of community leaders participating in a capacity building and training programme in substance misuse as change agents
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Building the Capacity of Future Leaders in a Socially Accountable World</i>
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Content

In South Africa, resilience theory is of great relevance particularly within the current global pandemic amidst various other challenges of our context, and at a time when translating social development theory into practice whilst grappling with poverty and underdevelopment. Community resilience is embedded in the opportunities that community leaders create in order to challenge the remnant of historical decolonisation in this context. Resilience theory can assist in developing an understanding of how community leaders engage in agency in resource-strapped contexts. The essence of this theory was explored as a potential outcome of a training for community leaders in the implementation of substance misuse interventions. Using a mixed method approach, the reflective narrative (reflective journals, digital stories and evaluation questionnaires) of 25 community leaders participating in a substance misuse capacity building and training programme experience was explored. The key findings show that community leaders have developed knowledge and skills and extended these to their respective community contexts in creative and innovative ways. We conclude that resilience theory is relevant as an outcome of the training programme as it developed self-esteem and ensured that community leaders are change agents in their respective community contexts recognising their social accountability to their communities by addressing substance misuse in their communities.