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Lived experiences of people living with individual immunodeficiency virus ages 18-30 in Dasmariñas City Cavite

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The focus of this paper is to present the studies of lived experiences and stigma, discrimination of individual living with Human immunodeficiency and explore about the struggles, needs, and lived changes. This paper also described the role of these individuals' construction and reconstruction of the meaning of their lived experiences having HIV. The study utilized a phenomenological qualitative research design which summarized the lived experiences of the six (6) individual living with human immunodeficiency virus. In this study, the phenomenon were the people living with human immunodeficiency virus and their lived experiences which was determined in terms of their struggles, needs, and lived changes aspects as they verbalized during the interview. Qualitative research methodology using narrative interviews was used to explore the experiences of individual living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus at Dasmariñas City Cavite. Data were collected from 18-30 years old respondents. Interviews were conducted at Trece Martirez City Cavite Collaboration Building and each interview lasted

20 to 30 minutes. The verbatim of the six (6) individual living with human immunodeficiency virus were transcribed, and analyzed using a descriptive phenomenological approach until saturation of themes was achieved.

Data analysis revealed eight (8) main themes: discrimination, social stigma, rejection, adaptation, emotional and health needs, lived changes in being and belongingness. Societal attitudes towards HIV were a key factor in stigmatization, which leads to discrimination and stereotyping. Respondents experienced a negative self-image, feelings of shame and a threat to self-worth. Disclosure (when and to whom) of their positive HIV status was a great concern, while non-disclosure was a protective measure against stigmatization. Highly confidentiality of the respondents HIV status was observed. In response to their experiences all six (6) people living with human immunodeficiency virus accepted their diagnoses.

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