**Coping with alcohol and drug misuse: Experiences of families in Durban**

Families have always been the cornerstone for individual growth and development, which impacts sustainability of communities. Families are a crucial part in a person’s identity, rearing, and their day to day living shapes the world view of each of the family members. Families influence the type of citizens individuals will become in their community, and the role they will take in developing, and sustaining their development. The experiences they go through, the response to these experiences, and the duration of challenges all contribute to the future of the family members. I conducted a study which focused on the experiences of close family members living with a substance (drug and or alcohol) misusing close family members in Durban, South Africa. I explored the experience of the different family members, their coping mechanism and social support. Not only were the adults in the family of misusers impacted, but so were the children. They experience ongoing verbal abuse, which sometimes escalates to physical abuse, and emotional and psychological abuse, such blackmail and being verbally insulted. These experiences impacted negatively on their confidence, self- image and health, as well as the relationships within the family. Families reported having difficulty in reaching out for social support, which meant that most of the challenges they faced, were kept amongst themselves.