



**Capacitating Students in Field Training.  
(Unique Number: 168)**

**ASASWEI CONFERENCE 2023**



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
JOHANNESBURG

# Background

Highlights the **challenges faced by social work students during their fourth-year field placements**

Studied historically disadvantaged universities in South Africa



**Qualitative  
study**

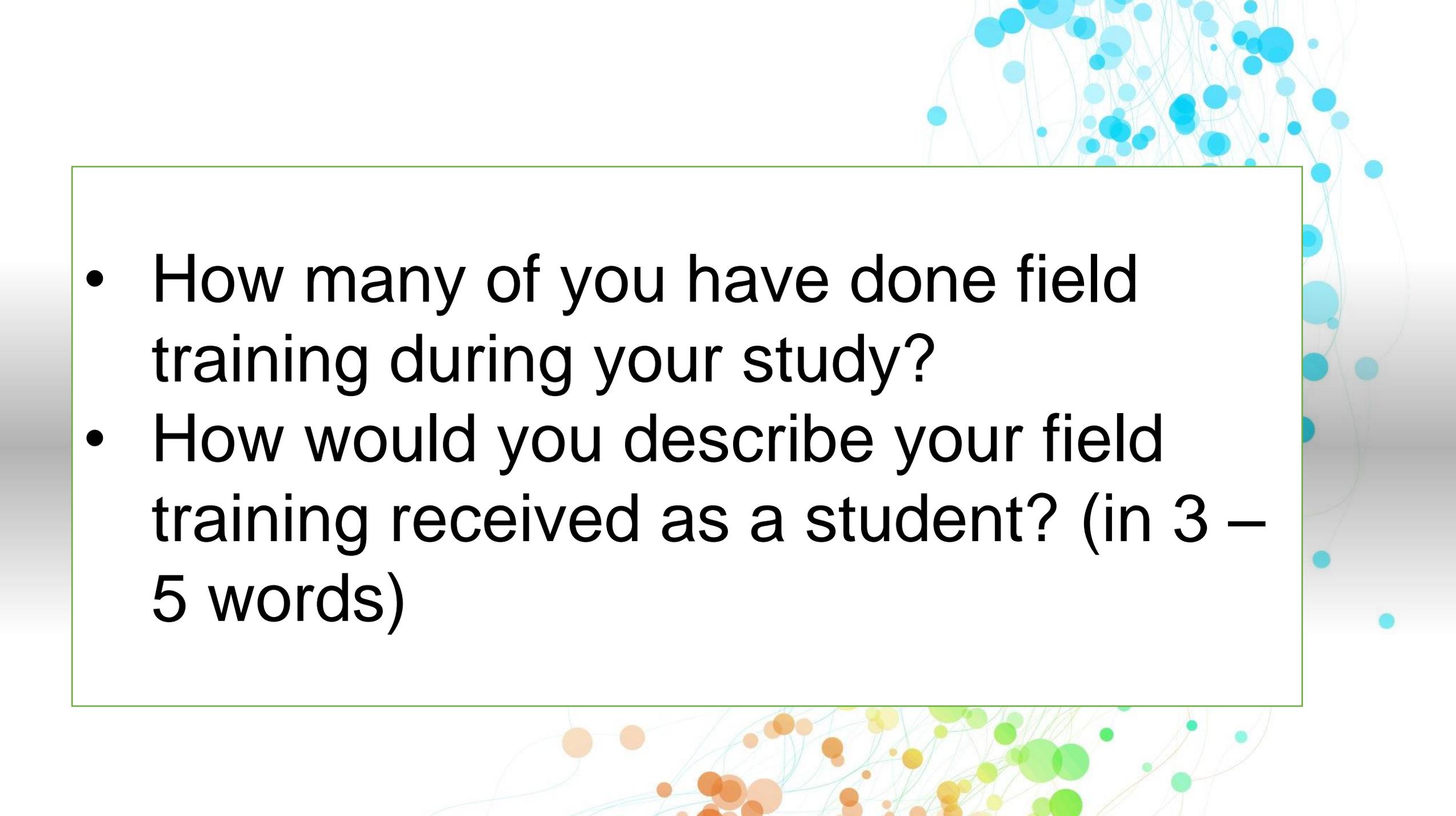
**Students**

**Graduates**

**University  
lecturers**

**Supervisors**

**Agency**

- 
- How many of you have done field training during your study?
  - How would you describe your field training received as a student? (in 3 – 5 words)

## Key questions to you

- How would you describe the **supervision** received during your field training?
- What improvements would you like to see in field training?





- As an educator or practitioner, what are the core competencies of graduates you would develop?

# Competencies and attributes?

**Knowledge**

**Skills**

**Attributes**

Theories  
- of change  
- attachment

**Planned Change  
Process**  
Engagement,  
assessment, planning,  
intervention

**Values**

**Integration  
Praxis**

**Think  
SOLER**

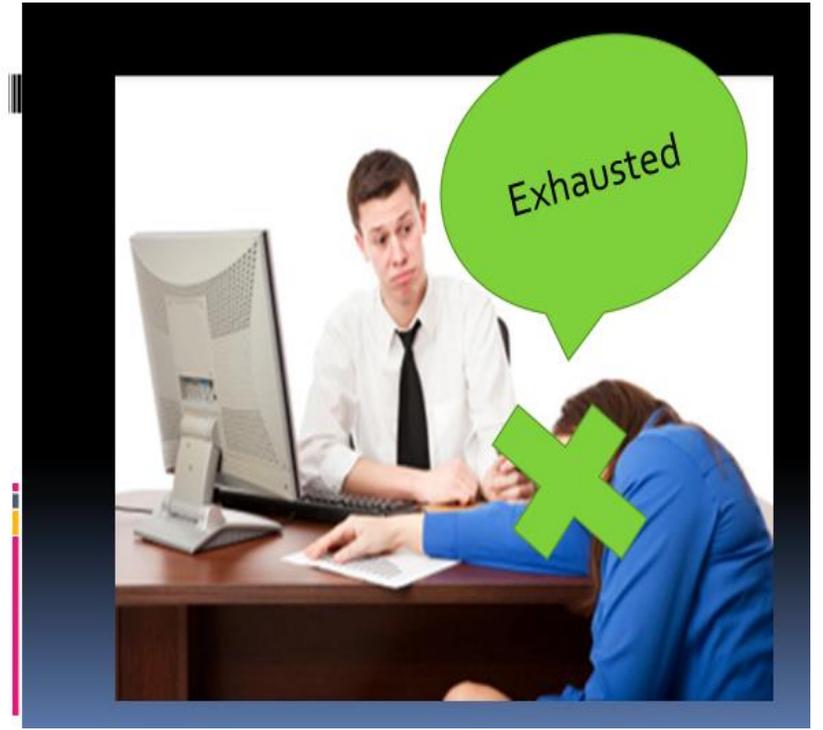
**Aptitude**

**Attitude**



# Findings

1. limited placements
2. poorly managed student placements
3. access to communities
4. supervision challenges



## Findings

4. once placed, the students are abandoned by the university
5. field supervisors provide academic, administrative and developmental guidance.
6. Supervisors are poor role models



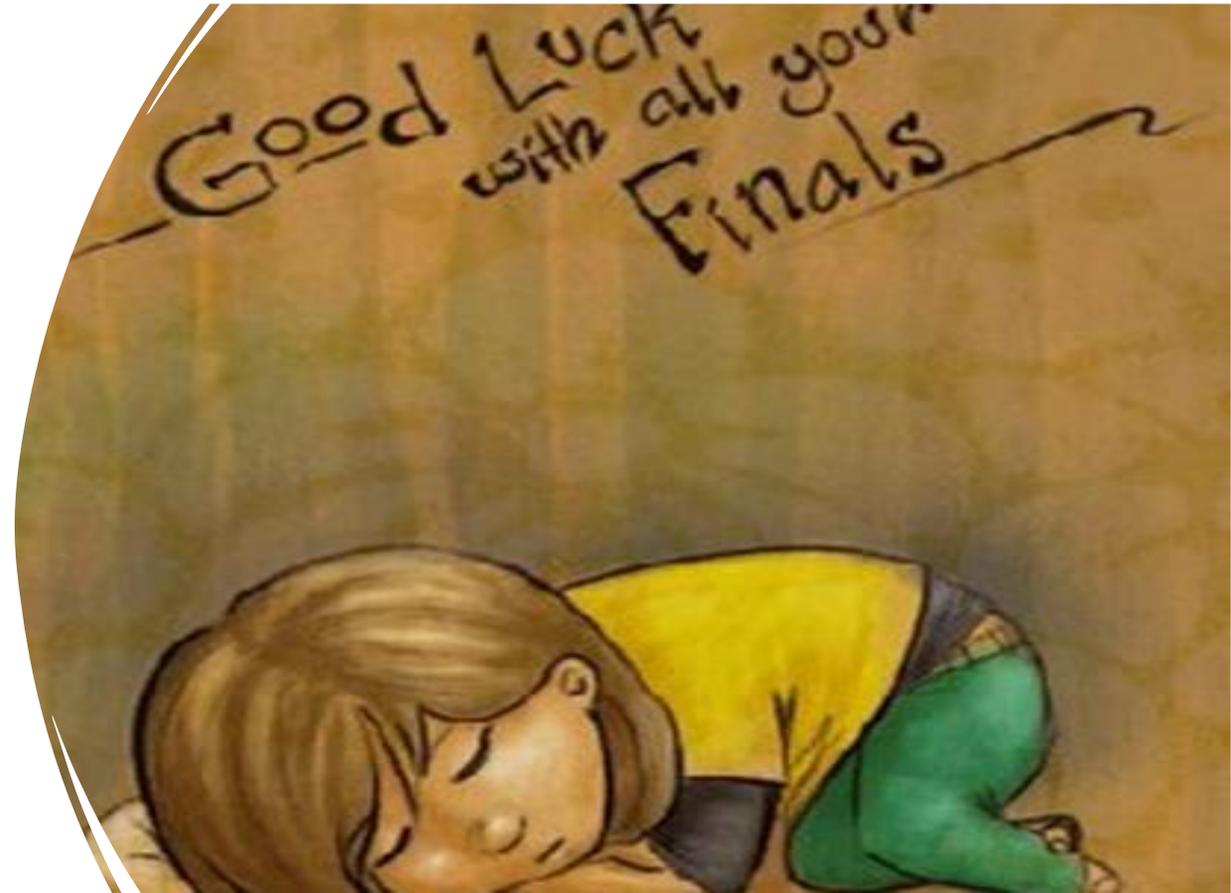
# Recommendations

- Competency of the Department (lecturer competency, resources, student support)



# Recommendations

- Structured yet flexible
- Communication system
  - university,
  - student and
  - placement agency
  - Supervisor



**Dear Students,  
I know when you're  
texting in class.**

**Seriously, no one just looks down  
at their crotch and smiles.**

*Sincerely, Your Teacher.*

