

ABSTRACT

This research was conducted in the Pietersburg circuit of Limpopo Province (LP) of South Africa (SA). Three Public Adult Learning Centres (PALCs) namely Flora Park, Pietersburg Comprehensive, and Rethabile were used as case studies in this research. The aim of the study was to investigate the educational needs of domestic workers at these three public adult learning centres.

To achieve the main aim outlined above, I formulated the following main research question:

- What are the educational needs of domestic workers at public adult learning centres in Pietersburg circuit?

In trying to answer the question above, I decided to undertake a multiple case study in order to investigate educational needs of domestic workers at the three public adult learning centres. This study had elements of needs assessment design. It was the objective of this study to investigate programmes that are offered to domestic workers at these centres. This has helped to establish if the programmes are able or unable to meet the needs of the domestic workers.

The study has revealed that the aim of public adult learning centres in Pietersburg circuit is to teach adult learners how to read and write. Their objectives are to enable the learners to further their studies, to get well-paying jobs and to no longer be socially excluded. The programmes offered at the adult learning centres of Pietersburg circuit are generally for adult learners and are not specifically designed for domestic workers. These programmes offer a similar curriculum that is offered in the mainstream schools.

This study has found that educational needs of domestic workers are inter alia, ability to access important documents, ability to communicate in English, ability to use new Technology and acquisition of skills in their scope of work.

The programmes that are offered at the public adult learning centres in Pietersburg circuit are indirectly meeting the educational needs of domestic workers. Their aim of teaching adult learners how to read and write will help learners to be able to access important documents. Teaching English as one of the Learning Areas will enhance the ability of domestic workers to communicate through the language English.

The fact that the programmes are not specifically for domestic workers indicates that some of their educational needs are not met. Technology is taught as a Learning Area but the content thereof is not related to their daily work as domestic workers. Domestic workers need to be taught, for example, how to use a computer so as to be able to help the children of their employers with homework.

The programmes offered to domestic workers need to include skills training because they need to acquire skills in their scope of work. The domestic workers' scope of work includes amongst others, looking after children, cleaning skills and food preparation.

The findings of this study might be relevant to other centres in other places of Limpopo Province with similar adult learners. However care has been taken in this study not to over generalise as different centres in various places of Limpopo Province may differ from one another in for example, nature of participants. The results of this study could be used to improve the programmes that are offered in public adult learning centres of the Limpopo Province.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAAT	Applied Agriculture and Agricultural Technology
ABET	Adult Basic Education and Training
AET	Adult Education and Training
ASGISA	Accelerated Shared Growth Initiatives of South Africa
ATMs	Automated Teller Machines
BCEA	Basic Conditions of Employment Act
DoE	Department of Education
EAP	Economically Active Population
EEED	Educational levels Economy Employment and Development
FET	Further Education and Training
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
HDI	Human Development Index
HSS	Human and Social Sciences
LO	Life Orientation

LP	Limpopo Province
LTSM	Learner -Teacher Support Material
MLMMS	Mathematical Literacy, Mathematics and Mathematical Sciences
NCS	National Curriculum Statement
NS	Natural Sciences
p.a	per annum
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OTA	Office of Technology Assessment
PALCs	Public Adult Learning Centres
PCs	Personal Computers
SA	South Africa
SMMEs	Small Micro and Medium Enterprises

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