

**CHALLENGES OF MANAGING A SCHOOL WITH MIGRANT LEARNERS: A
CASE OF TSHIPISE-SAGOLE RURAL DISTRICT**

by

MAILA NTSHENGEDZENI LEYNETH

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PROMOTER

Dr MP Mulaudzi

CO-PROMOTER

Dr RN Marishane

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to examine how school-based management address the educational needs and barriers of migrant learners. People migration is common across the globe and poses a number of challenges to other countries. Migrant learners and their parents leave their countries through political and socio-economic instability in search for greener pastures. South Africa has scores of migrant learners from various African countries. In recent years unaccompanied and undocumented minors cross the borders of South Africa in search for education. Migrant learners are subdued by challenges such as socio-economic factors, lack of documentation, language barrier and xenophobia. These factors pose some challenges in terms of managing schools. The study argued that effective school management is a necessary pre-condition for addressing the educational predicament of migrant learners. A qualitative research was conducted at Tshipise-Sagole district. Schools with 30-250 migrant learners were purposively sampled. Data were collected through individual interviews with 6 school principals and focus group interviews with 24 members of the School Governing Bodies and 18 members of the School Management Teams. Data were organised and categorised according to themes and then interpreted and analyzed inductively. The study revealed that school managers as custodians of migrant learners who play vital role in addressing the needs and barriers encounter difficulties to ensure effective and efficient management of their schools. The study recommended that schools should profile migrant learners' needs and barriers and address them. School managers, SMT and SGB members should have clear knowledge of various policies and legislation on the right to education and implement them. The study proposed the management in an inclusive school model that could be used in schools.

Keywords: Migration, migrant learner, school-based management, inclusive education, education for all, human rights-based education.