CHALLENGES CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS POOR PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR NCV PROGRAMMES IN VHEMBE FET COLLEGE

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ABSTRACT

The study was investigating the Challenges contributing towards poor performance of students registered for NCV programmes in Vhembe FET College. FET colleges in South Africa have been the target of intensive policy reform in the last 10 years since 1998 when the first FET Act was passed. Since 2006 FET colleges have been recapitalized through massive government investment in order to improve infrastructure, introduce a more relevant curriculum, re-train staff and assist college learners financially to access learning programmes. In particular a new curriculum was introduced with the rollout of 11 programmes under the National Certificate: Vocational, first at Level 2 in 2007, at Level 3 in 2008, and in 2009 at Level 4. In terms of the South African National Qualifications Framework, NCV levels 2-4 equate roughly to Grades 10, 11 and 12 in the schooling sector.

The study used both quantitative and qualitative techniques for data collection and analysis. Quantitative and qualitative techniques were mostly used in that they provided the researcher with an understanding of experiences and Challenges contributing towards poor performance of students registered for NCV programmes in Vhembe FET College. Purposive and simple random samplings were used for selection of sample for the study. Both primary and secondary data were used for analysis in this study. Secondary data were obtained from government publication, research publication, and report. Primary data were obtained through questionnaires and interview.

Major Findings of this study are the following:

- The study found that 45 respondents constituting 56.9% of the total sample strongly agreed with the statement that the NCV be targeted primarily at post Grade 9 school leavers as originally intended,

- The study also found that 62 respondents constituting 78.5% of the total sample strongly agreed with the statement that poor class attendance is a factor of poor performance of NCV student,
Major recommendations to address the findings these included the point that:

- Attendance can also be improved by the quality of teaching offered by the lecturers. Students seldom stay away from lessons whose lecturer do thorough preparation which adds value to school attendance. A positive measure of improving attendance could be in the form of a reward of some type to students who exhibit disciplined character. The reward could be in the form of an award given to a particular pupil on a monthly basis.

- The researcher recommends that the FET, through Campus Managers should motivate lecturers. An educator who has a history of performing well in his subject must be rewarded and promoted to high position. Promotional posts should be occupied by qualified skilled lecturers.