

**LEARNER PERFORMANCE IN ACCOUNTING GRADE 12 IN THE VHEMBE
DISTRICT**

by

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to investigate the causes of the high failure rate in Accounting for Grade 12 learners in the Vhembe District. The poor performance of learners is associated with a number of factors. This study raises questions for investigation regarding the high failure rate of Grade 12 Accounting learners in the Vhembe District.

The main research question reads as follows: What causes the failure rate of Grade 12 learners in Accounting to be so high? An in-depth study of literature on the causes of failure rate in Accounting was done. This guided this study. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used in this study. The questionnaire and the interview schedules were used to collect data from the subject advisor, teachers, learners, heads of departments and the principals. An empirical study was also conducted which included mainly the subject advisor, teachers, heads of departments, principals and learners from schools in the Soutpansberg Area in the Vhembe District. The data analysing method started with a literature review with the aim of identifying problems related to the failure rate of Grade 12 Accounting learners. The study revealed that:

- There is no clear policy in what causes high failure rate in schools.

This finding helped in the formulation of recommendations for this study. The study also identified that to keep the failure rate at a minimum the following should be implemented:

- Teachers should get more training on subject content
- Teachers should find ways of motivating Accounting learners
- Teachers should get more training on the implementation of the new curriculum.

Quantitative data was analysed using the SPSS and qualitative data was summarised and information categorised according to the main research questions. The main research findings were presented and this was followed by the main recommendations pertaining to the study.

Chapter 5 highlighted the major findings, conclusion and recommendations. The study therefore, recommended that:

- Accounting teachers should receive training that will assist them to acquire more knowledge on subject content;
- Teachers should use different materials in the teaching and learning process and at the same time adhere to the year programme;
- More Accounting teachers should be trained, in order to avoid a shortage of teachers;
- Teachers should be encouraged to make preparations before they teach;
- Teachers should rotate from one grade to another in the teaching process;
- The Department of Education should identify some of the schools per circuit to accommodate learners, specifically those studying Commercial subjects;
- The subject advisors should carry out their duties of assessing teachers on the implementation of the curriculum;
- Learners should be given more activities that will require them to read and write; and
- Basic concepts in Accounting should be explained to learners using both the mother tongue and English.