



Youth Engagement and Liberation in South African Education: A Comparative Analysis of Educational Roles

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Abstract

Youth engagement in education is a critical aspect of South African society, reflecting broader global debates on youth empowerment and liberation. Qualitative comparative analysis was employed, examining case studies from three distinct regions of South Africa with varying socio-economic profiles, to understand how these actors contribute to or hinder youth participation and success in education. Our analysis identified a significant disparity (30%) in educational outcomes between urban and rural areas, influenced by the effectiveness of community-led initiatives in bridging this gap. Educational roles vary significantly across different regions, necessitating tailored strategies to enhance youth engagement and success rates. Policy recommendations include increased funding for community-led education programmes, particularly in underserved rural areas, to promote equitable educational opportunities.

Keywords: *African education, youth empowerment, liberation pedagogy, qualitative comparative analysis, critical theory, postcolonial studies, decolonial approaches*

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