



# Mentorship Programmes in School Dropout Reduction: An Analysis of South Africa's Eastern Cape Province Educational Support Mechanisms

Nomsa Xulu<sup>1,2</sup>, Siphon Mkhize<sup>3,4</sup>, Mphumalo Dlamini<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal

<sup>2</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, University of Venda

<sup>3</sup> University of the Western Cape

<sup>4</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal

**Published:** 09 June 2003 | **Received:** 20 February 2003 | **Accepted:** 18 April 2003

**Correspondence:** [nxulu@hotmail.com](mailto:nxulu@hotmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18777829](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18777829)

## Author notes

*Nomsa Xulu is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Siphon Mkhize is affiliated with University of the Western Cape and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

*Mphumalo Dlamini is affiliated with University of the Western Cape and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Mentorship programmes are recognised as effective strategies in reducing school dropout rates, particularly among vulnerable student populations such as those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The study employed a comparative analysis of existing literature, qualitative interviews with educators and students, and review of relevant educational policies. A notable finding was the significant increase in dropout rates among students from rural areas who did not participate in mentorship programmes compared to those who did. This theme emerged as a key indicator for future policy development. Mentorship programmes have shown promise in mitigating school dropout rates, particularly when tailored to address specific needs of marginalized student groups. Investment should be prioritised in developing and sustaining mentorship programmes targeted at rural and economically disadvantaged students to further reduce dropout rates.

**Keywords:** *African Geography, School Dropout Analysis, Mentorship Programmes, Educational Support, Vulnerable Populations, Case Studies, Qualitative Research*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge