



The Educational Scholarship Programme's Influence on University Enrolment Rates Among South African Secondary School Graduates from Low-Income Families: A Policy Analysis in the Context of African Studies

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Abstract

The Educational Scholarship Programme (ESP) in South Africa aims to increase university enrolment rates among secondary school graduates from low-income families. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data from government records was employed to assess programme effectiveness and student experiences. The ESP has led to a 30% increase in university enrolment among low-income graduates, particularly in STEM fields where scholarships are more prevalent. While the ESP has demonstrated positive outcomes, challenges such as financial sustainability and equitable distribution of scholarships remain key areas for improvement. Enhancing scholarship transparency and expanding eligibility criteria to include broader academic disciplines could further boost enrolment rates.

Keywords: *African Geography, Educational Scholarship Impact, Socioeconomic Factors, Mixed-Methods Approach, Qualitative Research, Quantitative Analysis, Enrollment Rates*

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