



Community Participation and Governance in South African Schools: Implications for Educational Success

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Abstract

Community participation in South African schools is crucial for effective governance, yet its impact on educational success remains underexplored. Qualitative case studies were conducted in five randomly selected primary schools across different socio-economic zones to analyse community involvement, decision-making processes, and their effects on student performance. Community engagement was found to significantly influence the quality of education, with a notable improvement in literacy rates by 15% among participating schools compared to non-participating ones. The findings suggest that fostering active community participation can lead to better educational outcomes and improved governance structures within South African schools. School boards should actively seek broader community input, ensuring transparency in decision-making processes, which will enhance the overall quality of education provided.

Keywords: *African context, Community mobilization, Educational governance, Participatory management, Stakeholder engagement*

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