

## **Factors Influencing the Choice of Geography as an Optional Subject: A Case of a Senior Secondary School in Botswana**

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**ABSTRACT** This paper examines the factors which influence the choice of geography by final year students as an optional subject in a Botswana senior secondary school. It is often the case that a year to their final year in school, it is mandatory for students to offer some compulsory (core) subjects such as English and Mathematics, and Setswana but also have to choose some courses from a given list of optional subjects. In recent years, it has been observed that more students opt for geography from the list of available optional subjects. What factors influence those students opting for geography at the expense of other optional subjects in the same category? What are the implications for teacher education at this level of education? These and other related questions form the basis of this investigation. Data were collected from a sample of 218 final year students from a senior secondary school in Gaborone with the use of an instrument titled "Students' Choice of Geography." A major finding was the preference of Geography by students because of its relationship with their intended careers. The implications of this study, among others, include the organization of frequent workshops to students and the need to tailor teacher education curriculum to include career choice and the effective use of counseling facilities in schools.