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Lacking the Learner-centred Approach in Mathematics: A Curricular Paradigm

Mutendwahothe Walter Lumadi

Department of Curriculum and Instructional Studies, University of South Africa, South Africa
E-mail: Lumadmw@unisa.ac.za

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ABSTRACT Mathematics is fundamental to national prosperity in providing tools for understanding science, technology, engineering and economics. It is essential in public decision making and for participation in the knowledge economy. Mathematics equips learners with unique and powerful ways to describe, analyse and change the world. It can stimulate moments of pleasure and wonder for all learners when they solve a problem for the first time, discover a more elegant solution, or notice hidden connections. This study investigated a societal problem – the on-going poor performance in mathematics. The study described what is going on by means of statistical methods and reported in statistical language and hence, descriptive quantitative research paradigm infused with content analysis (cartoons) was adopted. The sample for the study comprised a total of ten underperforming (failing) secondary schools obtained by simple random sampling; 50 Grade 12 mathematics educators and 200 Grade 12 mathematics learners selected through stratified sampling technique.