

Factors that Contribute to Poor Learner Performance in Physical Sciences in KwaZulu-Natal Province with Special Reference to Schools in the Pinetown District*

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ABSTRACT The National Senior Certificate Examination results for Physical Sciences have recently declined, particularly in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. This paper identified the causes of poor learner performance in Physical Sciences in grade 12 in the Further Education and Training (FET) phase in public schools in the Pinetown District, KwaZulu-Natal. The study employed a mixed method approach. Two public schools in the Pinetown District participated in this study. Upon analysis of the results, several contributory factors for poor performance were identified; no single factor was accountable for the poor performance in Physical Sciences. Recommendations for improvement in the areas identified were provided and topics for future research on the curriculum of grade 8 and 9 Natural Science were suggested.