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An Investigation into the Study Patterns and Habits of Grade 8 and 9 Learners in South Africa: Are They Studying?

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ABSTRACT Much has been documented on the dismal education system in South Africa and how the country's Senior Phase learners are performing poorly in the international benchmarked tests. This paper aimed at investigating the study patterns and habits of Grade 8 and 9 learners in rural secondary schools. A purposive random sampling procedure was utilised to sample 45 Grade 8 and 9 learners from nine rural secondary schools. Five learners from each secondary school completed closed-ended self-administered questionnaires for this quantitative survey study. The findings of the study revealed that Senior Phase (Grade 8 and 9) learners are not being motivated and assisted by their parents to learn study. The study recommends that Senior Phase learners should be assisted with adopting study skills and strategies that can benefit them while studying. Reading material should be provided in order to instil love of reading among learners.