

Implementing Free Primary Education in Lesotho: Issues and Challenges

Pholoho Morojele

***Faculty of Education, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X03,
Ashwood, 3605, South Africa***

Telephone: +27 (0)31 260 3432, Fax: +27 (0)31 260 1598

E-mail: Morojele@ukzn.ac.za

KEYWORDS Education Provision. Resources. Learner Influx. Accountability. HIV and AIDS. Coordinated Strategy. Lesotho

ABSTRACT This paper gives prominence to rural teachers' accounts of Free Primary Education in Lesotho. It asks: What are the challenges facing the implementation of Free Primary Education in Lesotho? What can be learnt from these challenges in order to enhance the effective implementation of Free Primary Education in schools? Drawing on a qualitative study of three rural primary schools, the article discusses some challenges associated with the implementation of Free Primary Education in Lesotho. The inductive analysis offered makes use of the data generated from observations and semi-structured interviews with 12 teachers. The findings denote dynamics of infrastructural and teaching resources, and increased centralisation that resulted in loss of local accountability. These dynamics intersected with the effects of HIV and AIDS on teachers in ways that confounded the schools. The article recommends a coordinated approach, involving all the stakeholders as a basis for enhancing the effective implementation of Free Primary Education in the schools.