

THE PERCEPTIONS OF LEARNERS ON THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE, SA

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INTRODUCTION

- * In 1994 the South African Government introduced the Primary School Nutrition Programme (PSNP) as part of its reconstruction and development strategy, focusing on learners at primary school level.
- * Its aim was to improve the nutritional status of learners, relieve hunger, and improve the learning abilities of learners, resulting in positive educational results and thus ensuring a better life for all (ANC 1994a:48; DoH & DBE 2012).
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PROBLEM STATEMENT

- * Many learners are poor and cannot afford to bring their own lunch to school.
- * Majority of these learners stay very far and find it very difficult to prepare their own meals.
- * Their parents are not working and they fail to prepare lunches for their children.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- * The objective of the study was to explore and describe the perceptions of learners on the School Nutrition Programme in Msukaligwa, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.

METHOD

- * Design: Qualitative, exploratory and descriptive approach
- * Population: Purposively selected school learners
- * Data collection: Focus group interviews
- * Data analysis: Tesch method of data analysis

RESULTS

Categories	Sub-categories
1 Effects of nutrition programme on learners	1.1 Improved concentration and learning
2 Quality of food	2.1 Freshness of food
3 Method of food preparation	3.1 Boiling method

RESULTS CONT.

4 Lack of resources	4.1 Lack of space (kitchen, storage and dining hall)
	4.2 Lack of eating utensils
5 Problems experienced	5.1 Shortage of food
	5.2 Harsh treatment by cooks
	5.3 Discriminated by peers

RESULTS CONT.

6 Learners' preferences	6.1 Add juice or tea
	6.2 Add vegetables and fruits
	6.3 Replace nutrients
	6.4 Allocation for nutrition programme supervisor

RECOMMENDATIONS

- * It was recommended that learners should be involved when planning the menu for School Nutrition Programme,
- * in order to accommodate learners' food preferences and to avoid food wastage.

CONCLUSION

The participants noted that there are various problems related to the school nutrition programme such as shortage and late delivery of food

. Irrespective of these problems, it was evident that the introduction of school nutrition programme motivated the learners to attend school in order to learn.

The results also revealed that many learners depended on the food prepared at school and for them it was the main meal for the day.`

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TO THE AUDIENCE

- * THANK YOU
- * DANKIE
- * KEA LEBOGA