

TEACHER PROFESSIONALISM AND MOTIVATION IN A CULTURE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

BY

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This thesis has been language edited, and alterations have been made where necessary. However, the ideas of the researcher remain.

Marguerite Ambrose
15 December 2000



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Mankolo Xaverine Lethoko



DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I, Mankolo Xaverine Lethoko, declare that the thesis I am submitting to the University of Pretoria for the degree of Philosophae Doctor (PhD) has not been submitted by me to any other institution. It is my own work, and all the sources used or quoted in this study have been acknowledged by means of complete references.

M X Lethoko



ABSTRACT

TEACHER MOTIVATION AND PROFESSIONALISM AS PREREQUISITES FOR A POSITIVE CULTURE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

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It is nearly seven years since South Africa became a democratic state decades after apartheid. The country is now faced with numerous challenges in all facets of life, that is, politically, economically, socially, and most importantly, educationally. Since 1994, the new democracy has started with the reconstruction of dilapidated school buildings, the redistribution of resources and funds to the previously disadvantaged schools, ensuring proper functioning of governance structures at all levels, making the new curricula work, and proper implementation of the new legislation. However, while a new education system is being reconstructed, there is a greater task awaiting all the stakeholders in education, that is, the transformation of the attitudes of teachers and learners regarding their respective roles, which is that teachers must teach, and learners must learn. Teachers are the ones charged with the primary duty of ensuring that the teaching and learning process takes place in schools. Therefore, teachers as adults, parents and professionals, have to lead by example, be self-disciplined and dedicated to their work. Then learners are more likely to follow suit and do their work as it is expected. At the present moment the teachers' motivation and professional ethos leaves much to be desired.

During the apartheid era, both teachers and learners would not go to school on the first day of school, or even longer, as part of the defiance campaign against the apartheid regime. Most teachers and learners still do not take the first day of schooling that seriously. To some teachers, it has not dawned to them that democracy comes with duties and responsibilities



that people have to bear in mind. It is really disappointing to see the Minister of Education and the Department of Education officials 'run around' the schools in the entire country to ensure that teaching takes place on the first day of school. The teachers' motivation to teach, their professionalism and dedication towards the restoration of the culture of learning and teaching is very much questionable. Nowadays, teaching is no longer viewed as a calling and a prestigious profession in which teachers commit themselves to the education of learners. Teachers are like workers, who are more focused on their rights, their working conditions and salaries, sometimes at the expense of the learners' time. As a result, there is an urgent need for a shift in the teachers' attitudes and behaviour with regards to their work and the teaching profession as a whole. Then the transformation can be spread to the learners, parents and the wider community.

The nine-percent increase with regards to the learner passrates for the 2000 matric results is a positive sign towards the improvement of learner performance and the culture of learning and teaching. This implies that teachers need to improve their motivation and professionalism, so as to increase the passrates even more this year. This can help in the enhancement of the culture of teaching and learning in schools.

From the empirical research undertaken through the use of questionnaires, interviews and observation, it has become apparent that the external factors in the teachers' environment are the most demotivating factors for teachers. These include: poor salaries, unsatisfactory facilities, crime and violence in schools, abolishment of corporal punishment, poor management of schools, poor parental co-operation in school-related matters, unsatisfactory teacher training and many other factors. The influence of teacher unions in the teaching profession is also a controversial issue regarding teacher professionalism.

Several recommendations are made in respect of the Department of Education, Teacher Training Institutions, teacher unions, principals, teachers, parents and the wider community as stakeholders in education. These recommendations and ways to improve teacher motivation, professionalism and ultimately, the culture of learning and teaching will



hopefully benefit all the stakeholders in education, and contribute in stimulating further research.

KEYWORDS

Teacher

Principal

Motivation

Intrinsic motivation

Extrinsic motivation

Achievement motivation

A profession

Professionalism

Teacher unions

Culture of teaching and learning



OPSOMMING

ONDERWYSER PROFESSIONALISME EN MOTIVERING IN 'N ONDERRIG EN LEERKULTUUR

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Suid Afrika is reeds sewe jaar lank 'n demokratiese staat en word deur politieke, ekonomiese, sosiale, en heel belangrik, opvoedkundige uitdagings gekonfronteer. Die nuwe demokratiese regering het reeds begin om skool geboue te herbou, om hulpbronne en fondse te herverdeel tussen voorheen minderbevoorregte skole, om die goeie werking van regeringstrukture te verseker, om die nuwe leerplanne toe te pas, en om nuwe wetgewing behoorlik te implimenteer. Alhoewel die opvoedkundige sisteem hervorm word, wag daar 'n groter taak op aandeelhouers in die opvoedkunde, naamlik, die transformasie van die houdings van onderwysers en leerders jeens hul onderskeie take. Dit is die plig van onderwysers om toe te sien dat onderrig en leer plaasvind. As volwasse beroepslui moet hulle derhalwe 'n goeie voorbeeld stel en toewyding en self-dissipline toe pas. Leerders sal dan meer geneë wees om hul onderwysers se voorbeeld te volg. Tans laat die motivering en professionele etos van leerkragte veel te wense oor.

In hierdie studie is onderwysers se professionele gedrag en motivering om onderrig te gee ter sake. Die studie behoort 'n leerkultuur te bevorder. Alle mense voel die behoefte om deel te neem aan spesifieke soorte gedrag. Onderwysers moet intrinsiek en ekstrinsiek gemotiveerd wees om onderrig te gee. Hierdie studie sal daarop wys dat daar verskillende faktore is wat onderwysers demotiveer, en dat onderwysers nie prestasie-gemotiveerd is nie. Intrinsieke faktore wat onderwysers demotiveer sluit die volgende in: 'n gevoel dat onderwys die verkeerde loopbaankeuse was, die lae aansien wat die beroep geniet, 'n vrees vir die



rasionalisasie- en herontplooiingsproses, swak leerderprestasie, en 'n gebrek aan erkenning vir goeie werk. Die ekstrinsieke faktore wat onderwysers demotiveer sluit die volgende in: onbevredigende salarisse, swak onderwysersopleiding, swak infrastruktuur en fasiliteite, misdaad en geweld aan skole, en die afskaffing van lystraf. Swak salarisse, lankal 'n twisappel tussen onderwysunies en die Department van Onderwys, is die grootste demotiveringsfaktor volgens onderwysers. Onderwysers se motivering is laag want salarisse kan nie aan basiese behoeftes voldoen nie.

Professionele gedrag in die onderwys sluit belangrike faktore in soos die standaard van kwalifikasies, vakkennis, verskaffing van indiensopleiding, en die grondvesting en goeie bestuur van Suid-Afrikaanse Raad vir Opvoedkunde (SARO) en die toepassing van SARO se gedragskode. Onderwysunies het ook 'n belangrike rol te speel in die beroep, want hul verteenwoordig onderwysers in die Raad vir Arbeidverhoudinge in Onderwys (RAVO) en hou 'n oog oor die arbeidsregte en werksomstandighede van onderwysers. Ongelukkig is sommige unies bekend vir hul deelname aan militante aktiwiteite. Dus is die vakverenigingswese 'n netelige kwessie.

In die studie word verskeie aanbevelings aan die Departement van Onderwys, opleidingsinstellings vir onderwysers, onderwysunies, ouers, en die groter gemeenskap gemaak. Hopelik sal al die aandeelhouers baat vind by die aanbevelings aangaande onderwyser motivering, professionele gedrag en die leerkultuur, en sal die studie verdere navorsing stimuleer.

SLEUTELWOORDE

onderwyser
skoolhoof
motivering
intrinsieke motivering
ekstrinsieke motivering



rofessie
professionalisme
onderwysunie
onderrig-en-leerkultuur



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

AFT American Federation of Teachers

ANC African National Congress

COLT Culture of Learning and Teaching

COLTS Culture of Learning, Teaching and Services

COSATU Congress of the South African Trade Unions

COTEP Committee on Teacher Education Policy

DETU Democratic Teachers Union

DOE Department of Education

ELPTU East London Progressive Teachers Union

ELRA Education Labour Relations Act

ELRC Education Labour Relations Council

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HSRC Human Sciences Research Council

LRA Labour Relations Act

MEd Master in Education

NAPTOSA National Professional Teachers Organisation of South Africa

NEA National Education Association

NEUSA National Education Union of South Africa

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation

NOWETU North-West Teachers Union

NQF National Qualifications Framework

NTNTA Northern Transvaal Native Teachers' Association

PAC Parents and Community

RDP Reconstruction and Development Programme

RSA Republic of South Africa

SA South Africa

SABC South African Broadcasting Corporation

SACC South African Certification Council

SACE South African Council of Educators

SADTU South African Teachers Union

SAQA South African Qualifications Authority

SASA South African Schools Act

SATU South African Teachers Union

SAVO South African Students Voluntary Organisation

SGB School Governing Body

STNTA Southern Transvaal Native Teachers' Association

TATA Transvaal African Teachers' Association

TNTA Transvaal Native Teachers' Association

TTI Teacher Training Institutions

TUATA Transvaal United African Teachers' Association

WECTU Western Cape Teachers Union