

PATHWAYS OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH AND
THEIR RE-ENTRANCE INTO THE EDUCATION
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM OR
THE LABOUR MARKET

By

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Dedication

My late grandmother, my strength, my reason for hard work! She taught me the secrets of working hard and was a reflection of a woman's strength and left too soon. Eva Dube, she may be gone, but she will never be forgotten!



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Abstract

The study is an investigation into the pathways of out-of-school youth and their re-entrance into the Education Training and Development (ETD) system or the labour market. In the study the pathways of youth who dropped out of school between grades 1 and 11 are traced as they seek re-entrance to the ETD system, or entrance into the labour market. Particular attention was given to the factors that determine the choices that dropouts make either in re-entering the ETD system or entering the labour market. An analysis of the experiences of the interviewed sample of dropouts is presented.

The study employs a qualitative research methodology using interviews to elicit the experiences of dropouts and school managers. The participants (young people and three school principals) were selected through snowballing from a township south of Durban. Individual and focus group interviews were held.

The findings provide evidence of the value of investing in education, as suggested by the youth. This is in line with the human capital theory framework that suggests that there are major benefits to investing in education. The study is concluded by suggesting the need for second chance education in South Africa.

Key words: school-to-work transitions, youth transitions, re-entry experiences, second chance education, youth pathways, information poverty, human capital, investing in education, education policy, successful destinations, rational decision making theory, drop out and drop-in

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A. List of Abbreviations

ABET	Adult Basic Education and Training
ANC	African National Congress
CASE	The Community Agency for Social Enquiry
DoE	Department of Education
DoL	Department of Labour
EMIS	Education Management Information System
ETD	Education Training and Development
FET	Further Education and Training
GET	General Education and Training
HET	Higher Education and Training
HOD	Head of Department
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LURITS	Learner Unit Record Information and Tracking System
NSF	National Skills Fund
NYC	National Youth Commission
NYDA	National Youth Development Agency
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
SASA	South African Schools Act of 1996
SETA	Sector Education and Training Authority
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UYF	Umsobomvu Youth Fund

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