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!
Contents

A. Abstract
B. Acknowledgements
C. List of abbreviations
D. List of tables

CHAPTER 1: GIVING CONTEXT TO THE STUDY ................................................................. 11
1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY .............................................................................. 11
1.2 PROBLEM FORMULATION ................................................................................ 15
1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY .................................................................................... 16
1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS ....................................................................................... 17
1.5 CLARIFICATION OF CONCEPTS........................................................................... 17
  1.5.1 Career destinations .............................................................................................. 17
  1.5.2 School-to-work transition .................................................................................. 18
  1.5.3 Youth labour market .......................................................................................... 18
  1.5.4 Drop-outs/out-of-school ................................................................................... 18
  1.5.5 Drop-in .............................................................................................................. 18
  1.5.6 System ................................................................................................................ 18
  1.5.7 Education training and development ................................................................. 19
  1.5.8 Pathways, experiences and factors ..................................................................... 19
1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY ............................................................................ 19
1.7 ORGANISATION AND OVERVIEW OF CHAPTERS ............................................. 20
1.8 SUMMARY ............................................................................................................. 21

CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON YOUTH DROP-OUT AND DROP-IN SCHOOL BEHAVIOURS ................................................................. 22
2.1 INTRODUCTION ...................................................................................................... 22
2.2 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON YOUTH SCHOOL DROP-OUT/DROP-IN BEHAVIOUR ................................................................................................................. 23
  2.2.1. Human capital theory and issues in learner drop-out/drop-in school behaviour .... 23
  2.2.2. Rational decision-making theory and issues in learner drop-out/drop-in behaviours ... 26
  2.2.3. Social environment model and issues in learner drop-out/drop-in behaviours .......... 29
  2.2.4. The congruence model and issues in learner drop-out/drop-in behaviours ............ 30
2.2.5. A brief evaluation of the theoretical models and issues in the drop-out’s decision to drop back into school ................................................................. 31

2.3. APPLICATION OF THE THEORETICAL MODELS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION ................................................................................................. 32

CHAPTER 3: EMPIRICAL PERSPECTIVES ON YOUTH DROP-OUT AND DROP-IN BEHAVIOURS ......................................................................................... 37

3.1. INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................... 37

3.2. COMPARING LEARNER DROP-OUT CAUSES IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH THOSE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD ................................................................................................. 38

3.3. THE CONSEQUENCES OF LEAVING SCHOOL ........................................................................ 42

3.3.1. Economic consequences .............................................................................................. 42

3.3.2 Non-pecuniary consequences ...................................................................................... 51

3.4. THE EXTENT OF AND MOTIVES FOR SCHOOL DROP-INS .................................................... 54

3.4.1. Pathways back into education: proportion of and motives for drop-outs’ return to school................................................................................................. 55

3.5. DROP-OUTS AND THE LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES IN SOUTH AFRICA........ 64

3.5.1. The labour market challenges ...................................................................................... 64

3.5.2 The prospect of returning to school ............................................................................ 66

3.6 POLICY AND PROGRAMMES SUPPORTING SCHOOL DROP-IN IN SOUTH AFRICA ..... 67

3.6.1 Primary/secondary schooling ...................................................................................... 67

3.6.2 Postsecondary schooling ............................................................................................ 69

3.7 SUMMARY ..................................................................................................................... 72

CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY ........................................................................ 73

4.1. INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................... 73

4.2. RESEARCH PARADIGM ............................................................................................... 73

4.3. RESEARCH DESIGN ...................................................................................................... 74

4.4. METHODS ..................................................................................................................... 75

4.4.1. Sample and sampling ............................................................................................... 75

4.4.2. Access to the research site and participants ............................................................... 76

4.4.3. Data collection .......................................................................................................... 77

4.4.4. Data analysis ............................................................................................................. 79

4.5. MEASURES TO ENSURE TRUSTWORTHINESS ......................................................... 81

4.5.1. Research context ...................................................................................................... 82
6.4.3. Youth, adult dependency and grant dependency ................................................................. 128
6.4.4. Transition conceptions ........................................................................................................... 128
6.5. POLICY AND CHANGE ............................................................................................................. 129
   6.5.1. Youth development in South Africa, policy and change ....................................................... 129
   6.5.2. Policy and out-of-school youth .............................................................................................. 130
   6.5.3. Policy and the school principal .............................................................................................. 133
6.6. CONCLUSION ............................................................................................................................ 134

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUDING CONSIDERATIONS ............................................................................. 136
7.1. INTRODUCTION ......................................................................................................................... 136
7.2. INVESTING IN SECOND-CHANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE YOUTH 136
   7.2.1. Dropping out: Does the definition need alteration? ............................................................. 136
   7.2.2. An integrated model for assimilation into the ETD system for the out-of-school youth 138
   7.2.3. Advocating for second-chance education .............................................................................. 138
7.3. SIGNIFICANT ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION ................................................................. 140
   7.3.1. Linking the study to the human capital perspective ............................................................. 141
   7.3.2. Linking the study to the rational decision-making perspective ........................................... 142
   7.3.3. Contribution of the study ....................................................................................................... 142
   7.3.4. Further research ...................................................................................................................... 143
7.4. CONCLUSION ............................................................................................................................ 145

REFERENCES ................................................................................................................................. 147
APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Interview Schedule for the Youth – Focus Group and Individual Interviews
Appendix 2: Interview Schedule for the Principal
Appendix 3: Consent Letter
Appendix 4: Data
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

B. List of Tables

Table 1: Characteristics that influence the decision to return to school
Table 2: Research questions and data processes
Table 3: Participants’ demographic and secondary school characteristics
Table 4: Participants’ matric status and participation in post-secondary schooling pathways