

https://dspace.org/

A changing role? Educational psychologists in South Africa: two decades beyond democracy

Kumar, Pragashni Asim

2017

https://hdl.handle.net/10539/24446

Kumar, Pragashni Asim (2017) A changing role? Educational psychologists in South Africa : two decades beyond democracy, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, <https://hdl.handle.net/10539/24446>

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

ABSTRACT

The study aimed to explore the views of practicing educational psychologists on their roles and functions within the South African context. The main purpose of the study was to document demographic and descriptive data in relation to educational psychologists' training, areas of work, and views of their roles and functions, within the context of changes in education policy and their professional practice in South Africa. The study used a descriptive survey design. One hundred and twenty seven respondents who were qualified educational psychologists completed a self- designed descriptive questionnaire. The findings of this study indicate that majority of educational psychologists in South Africa are practicing in a private practice capacity and majority service urban areas. Educational psychologists in this study highlighted three key areas of psychological intervention that they are engaged in, namely psycho-educational assessments, parent guidance, and child psychotherapy. Other key findings in this report highlight the gaps in training experienced by the respondents; the positive and negative aspects of the Education White Paper 6 policy as experienced by the respondents and their views on the educational psychology scope of practice.

Keywords: Educational psychology, Education White Paper 6, scope of practice, training of educational psychologists, ecosystemic intervention, indirect service delivery, lack of resources.