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An exploration into educators' perceptions and attitudes towards immigrant learners

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APPENDIX 1

UNIVERSITY
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My name is LYNETTE SIKHAKHANE, and I am conducting research for the purposes of obtaining a Masters at the University of the Witwatersrand. My area of focus is that of immigrant learners in a South African school. We live in a society where, among other things, our age, race, gender, language, ethnicity, financial status, religion and other demographic characteristics, impact on the experiences we have. Part of the research aims to explore how demographic variables affect our perceptions of others. I would like to invite you to participate in this study.

Participation in this research will entail being interviewed by myself, at a time and place that is convenient for you. The interview will last for approximately one hour. With your permission this interview will be recorded in order to ensure accuracy. Participation is voluntary, and no person will be advantaged or disadvantaged in any way for choosing to participate or not participate in the study. All of your responses will be kept confidential, and no information that could identify you would be included in the research report. The interview material (tapes and transcripts) will not be seen or heard by any person in this organisation at any time, and will only be processed by myself. You may refuse to answer any questions you would prefer not to, and you may choose to withdraw from the study at any point.

Your participation in this study would be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards

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APPENDIX2

SEMI-STRUCTURED EDUCATOR INTERVIEW SCHEDULE ON LEARNING &TEACHING NEEDS

PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Gender

   Please tick in the appropriate space provided.

Male	Female

2. Age

   Please tick in the appropriate space provided.

20-29yrs	30-39yrs	40-49yrs	50yrs&above

3. Home Language

   Please indicate which language you speak at home.

4. Language policy of the school.

   What language is stated in the policy of the school?

5. Training.

   Please tick in the appropriate space provided.

College of Education	University	Other (please specify)

6. Position held at school.

   Please tick in the appropriate space provided.

Teacher	Head of Department	Other (please specify)

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7. Teaching experience.

Please tick in the appropriate space provided.

0-4yrs	5-10yrs	11-15yrs	16-20yrs	More than 20yrs

8. At which phase of teaching are you involved?

Please tick in the appropriate space provided.

Foundation phase	Intermidiate phase	Senior phase

9. Teaching and Learning Needs.

9.1 Are you currently facing any learning/teaching difficulties in your classroom?

Yes	No

9.2 If yes, give examples

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.....
.....
.....

9.3 If no, give reasons.

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.....
.....

9.4 Please explain how you think these needs could be addressed.

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.....
.....
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10 Group Learning Support.

10.1 Do you think you might benefit from belonging to an educators' Learning Support group?

Yes	No

10.2 If yes, what would you hope to gain? Please explain.

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.....
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10.3 If no, give reasons.

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.....
.....

11 Inclusive Approach

11.1 Is your school an inclusive school?

Yes	No

11.2 If yes, please explain.

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11.3 If no, please explain.

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11.4 What do you understand by the term inclusion?

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.....

12 Policy of Inclusion

12.1 Do you agree with the policies of inclusion?

Yes	No

12.2 If yes, why do you agree?

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.....
.....
.....

12.3 If no, what about the policy do you find unrealistic?

.....
.....
.....
.....

LEARNING & TEACHING NEEDS – QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EDUCATORS

Please read carefully through the questionnaire and mark the appropriate squares with an X. Please do not leave any question unmarked.

1 - Never, 2 - Hardly Ever, 3 - Sometimes, 4 - Often, 5 - Always

	1	2	3	4	5
1. The high learner/educator ratio in my classes affects the quality of my teaching.					
2. I find it difficult to deal with children who have learning difficulties.					
3. I find it difficult to deal with children who have reading difficulties.					
4. I see myself as an approachable teacher.					
5. Teaching children who do not understand the language of instructions affects the quality of my teaching.					
6. I have children in my class, who do not understand the language.					
7. Discrimination/ social exclusion is an issue that has an impact in my class.					
8. I am able to handle my workload effectively.					
9. I am able to stimulate my learners to read.					
10. My learners do their homework satisfactorily.					
11. I find parents do help their children with their schoolwork.					
12. I attend workshops/seminars/meetings on inclusion.					
13. I am able to identify the learning needs of all my learners.					
14. I am able to support all my learners who have barriers to learning.					
15. Administrative activities affect the quality of my teaching.					
16. I help learners from different language backgrounds to expand their use of English.					
17. I use different teaching & learning techniques to help my learners to learn and think creatively.					

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18. I use different approaches to improve the language and learning skills of all my learners.						
19. I am able to enhance & develop my learners' self esteem.						
20. I am able to adjust my teaching to different learning styles to accommodate all my learners						
21. I feel overburdened with all the work I have to do at school.						
22. I consider myself lucky to be able to help learners.						
23. I am physically exhausted at the end of the week.						
24. My working situation interferes negatively with my social relationships.						
25. I consider resigning my post due to work pressure.						

From the list above kindly prioritise ten areas that are most relevant to your learning/teaching needs in your classroom.

	Number from list above
Area of need	
One	
Two	
Three	
Four	
Five	
Six	
Seven	
Eight	
Nine	
Ten	

APPENDIX 3

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR EDUCATORS

1. Does your school have a programme for immigrant learners?

   If yes, please describe the programme.
   If not, why not?

2. Do you have a programme for immigrant learners?

   If yes, please describe it.
   If not, why not?

3. If you answered no to number (2) above, what kind of a programme would you as an educator offer for these children?



4. What do you do to make immigrant learners feel welcome in your classroom?

5. Do you find it difficult to teach immigrant children?

   If yes, please describe.
   If not, why not?

6. Do you spend additional time teaching these children in the class?

   If yes, how much time and in what learning areas?
   If not, why not?

7. Do immigrant children bring benefits into your classroom?

   If yes, please elaborate
   If not, why do you this is the case?

8. Do you pay home visits to immigrant children?

   Please explain.

9. Does the school have a policy from the department about immigrant learners?

   If yes, how has this been adapted to suit your school?

10. What are your greatest challenges in dealing with immigrant children?

11. Are these children more demanding of your time? Please elaborate.

12. Do you think you need extra training, resources, time and skills in order to deal with immigrant learners in your class?

    If yes, what issues do you think need to be incorporated in the training?
    If no, please explain.

13. Are there differences between the immigrants' culture and your school's culture? Please elaborate.

14. Do you think some immigrant groups are more difficult to include in the classroom and the school than others are?

    If yes, why do you think this is so and which groups are more difficult to include?

15. How do you see these children in your classroom? Are they strangers?

    Please elaborate.

16. How easy or difficult is it to have them in your classroom?

17. In your view what is it that makes teaching immigrants different?



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