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Technology

LIFE ORIENTATION

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Academic Performance of Orphaned Primary School Learners Aged Between Eight and Ten in Mankweng Circuit: Limpopo Province, South Africa

By

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Aim and the objectives of the study

- The aim of the study was to investigate the impact of orphanhood on academic performance among primary school learners in Mankweng Circuit, Limpopo Province (South Africa)

Aims and Objectives Cont....

- The objectives of the study were:
 - To investigate the role of orphanhood and its effects on learners' academic performance in comparison with the non-orphans.
 - To determine the role that is played by gender on academic performance among orphaned-learners.
 - To explore the educators views regarding the performance of orphaned learners vis-à-vis non orphaned learners.

Methodology

- The study employed both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection.

The quantitative component

- Sampling
 - Simple random sampling was employed to sample 200 learners (100 were the orphaned group and 100 were the comparison group) from 10 simple randomly selected primary schools from Mankweng Circuit.
 - Age criteria was used to sample both the orphaned and the comparison group
- Data Collection techniques
 - Archives/educators 'schedules were used as a mode of data collection

Qualitative component

- Sampling
 - Purposive sampling was employed to sample ten teachers i.e. one teacher per sampled school.
- Data collection technique: In-depth interview

Data Analysis

- Quantitative data was analysed through ANOVA using the R statistics version 3.2.3 (2015), followed by treatment mean separation using Fisher's *t*-test least significant difference (LSD).
- Thematic analysis was employed to analyse qualitative data.

Ethical Considerations

- Before the study could commence, the researcher received ethical clearance from the University's research committee
- Provincial Department of Education (Limpopo) also granted the researcher the permission to access the schools and conduct the study.
- Consent for participation in the study was obtained from the all participants.
- Participants were made aware that participation in the study is voluntary and they can withdraw their

Ethical Considerations cont...

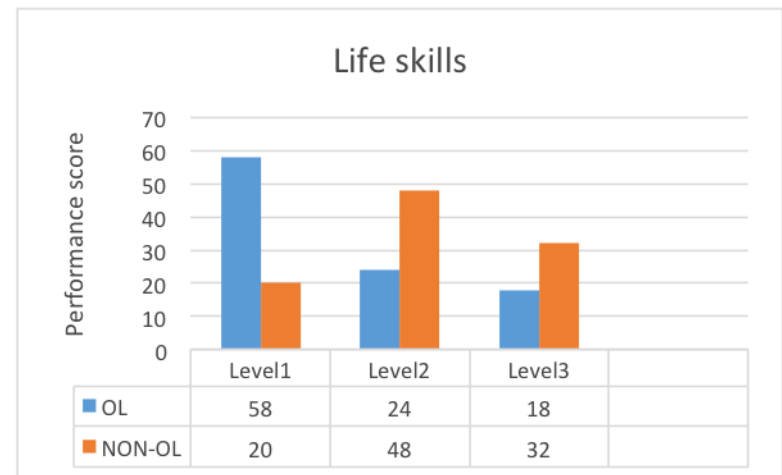
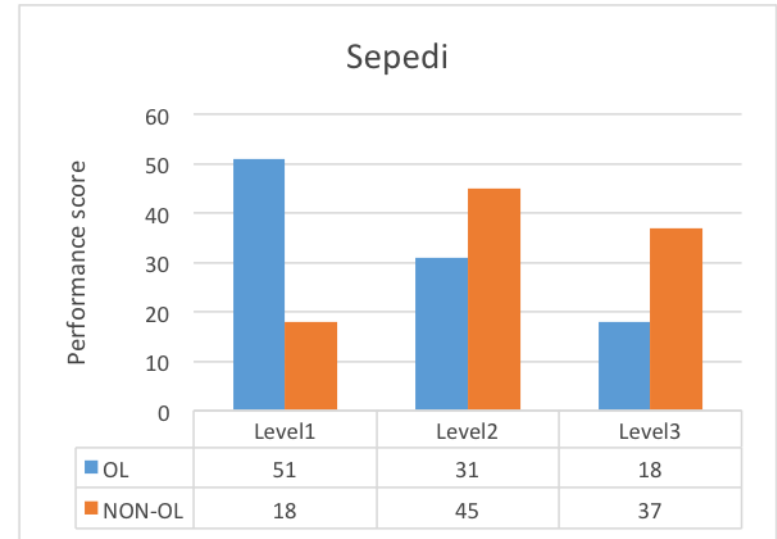
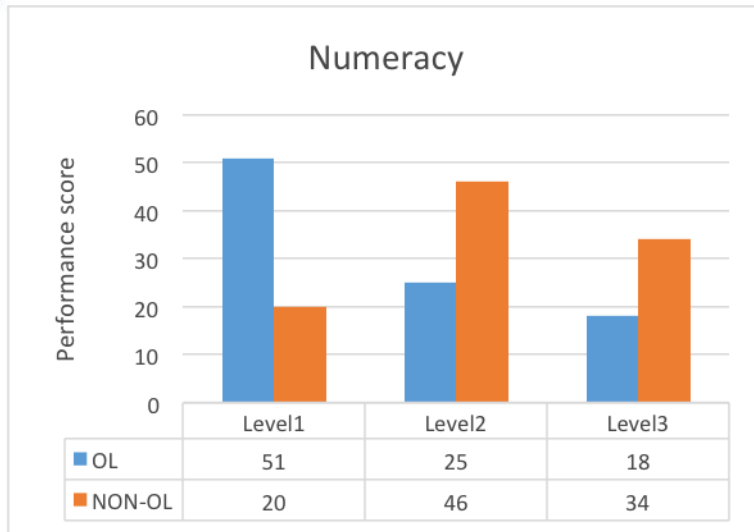
Participation at any time they see it fit.

- Confidentiality – assured of the confidentiality of the information that they would provide
- Benefits- advised that there was no direct and immediate benefits associated with the study

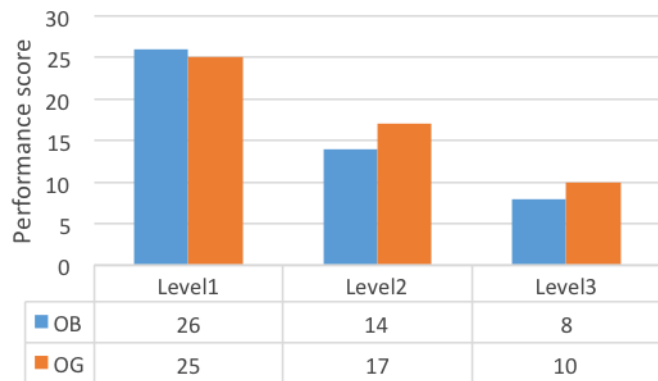
Findings-Quantitative

- Four learning areas investigated were Sepedi, Numeracy, English and Lifeskills.
- Scoring system was classified into three levels, i.e. 0-49 were in level 1, 50-69 were in level 2 and 70-100 were in level 3.

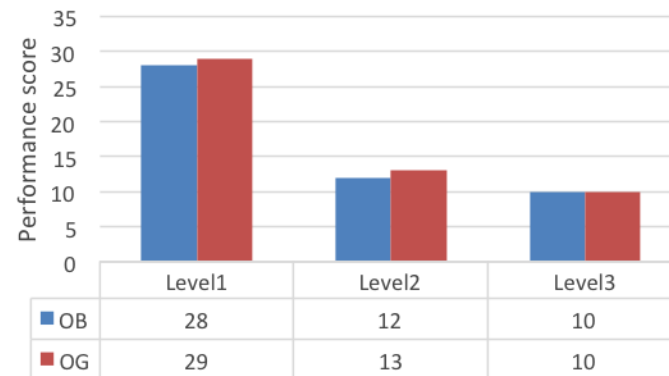
Findings-Quantitative Cont....



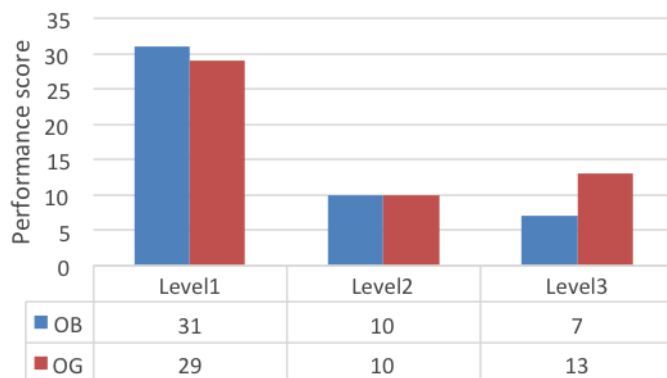
Orphaned boys vs orphaned girls in Sepedi



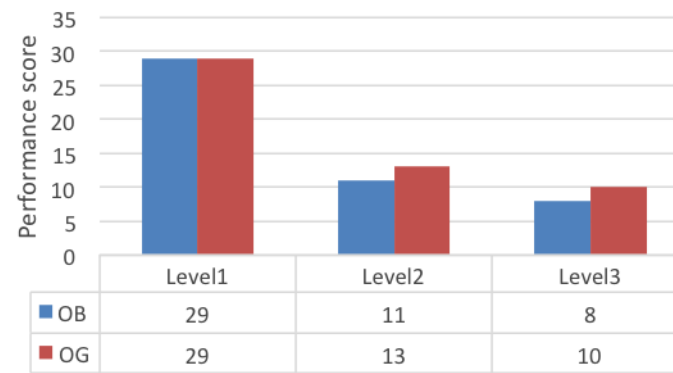
Orphaned boys vs orphaned girls in Numeracy



Orphaned boys vs orphan girls in English



Orphaned boys vs orphaned girls in Life skills



Qualitative Results-Summary

- Data was collected through interviews with teachers from identified schools and questions asked focused on their experience in dealing with the orphaned learners and the challenges and problems faced by orphaned learners as compared to the non-orphaned ones.
- From the corpus of raw data the following themes emerged:
 - Scholastic underachievement- Inability to write

Qualitative Results-Summary cont...

school work, poor grades, absenteeism, lack of concentration in class.

- Psychological challenges- poor self esteem, lack of confidence and rejection, feelings of shame, high level of sensitivity.
- Behavioural patterns- Uncooperative, Disrespectful, Bossy, bully and non participation in social activities.

Qualitative Results-Summary cont...

- Challenges and problems associated with the guardians of orphaned learners- Misuse of grants, difficulties in keeping learners clean, guardians not coping.

Recommendations

- Large Scale research on factors that affect academic performance of orphaned children
- Provision and accessibility of psychotherapeutic services in rural schools
- Incorporation of basic counselling in the curriculum of teacher training

Recommendation conti..

- Government should make available the alternative means of academic help concerning home-works since most learners are under the guardianship of grandparents who never had an opportunity of formal schooling and as such are unable to read and write.

Limitations of the study

- Orphans under the age of eight and above ten were not included in the study.
- Learners intelligent quotient was not considered when conducting the study
- The researcher used the first semester mark for assessment and not the year end results.
- The sample for both quantitative and the qualitative was small i.e.200/100 for quantitative and 10 for qualitative component.

Limitations of the study cont..

- The above findings are supported by qualitative results which also revealed poor scholastic achievement of orphans as compared to non-orphans coupled with psychological problems and negative behavioural patterns.
- The end...thank you