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Soweto Science Centre as a community engagement initiative at the University of Johannesburg

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Abstract content
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University of Johannesburg is championing a community engagement programme which makes provision for tutoring of learners in the Further Education and Training (FET) band by providing contact sessions on Fridays and Saturdays at its Soweto Science Centre. There has been overwhelming participation by Grade 10, 11 and 12 learners coming from schools in and around Soweto Township in this flagship programme over the years. Prior to the commencement of coaching, learners' pre-entry characteristics in terms of topics taught at schools are established through carefully structured knowledge, synthesis and application-type questions. Learners' content knowledge in topics such as vectors, equations of motion and energy presumably taught at school in Grade 10 was assessed by means of a diagnostic test. The findings of this research revealed inadequacy in relation to the Physics content taught at schools and the competency of the FET teachers in the Physics content thereof. Key findings that emerged from this investigation appear to be consistent with well-documented subject knowledge deficiencies prevailing amongst Physical Science teachers.

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