



Siyakhula

we are growing

Siyakhula recently spent a morning visiting 2 High Schools in **Ivory Park**. The schools were selected purely on the basis of their proximity to Siyakhula. The purpose was simply to start a conversation. We met with principals and the HODs of Maths, Science and English. The outcome of this conversation makes for uncomfortable reading. However, in crisis lies opportunity. But first, both schools reported similar challenges:

Basic Literacy: Many learners arrive from primary school unable to read and write, many will 'pass' matric without significant improvement. Of 279 matrics in the one school, 70 deserved to be there on merit.

The lack of a basic and foundational grasp of English makes subjects like Maths and Science extremely difficult.

Numeracy: Learners require calculators (when available) for basic sums, e.g. 1×10 , 2×2 , etc. Basic fractions are a challenge, as are more advanced exponents. Human resources is a problem. At end of March some classes yet to have a Maths lesson.

Mentoring: Learners are largely unaware of post-school opportunities. There is little correlation between what is done at school and future options. How, where, when and why to apply for further study, bursaries, learnerships or employment opportunities remains a mystery for many learners.

Resources: There is a shortage of both prescribed and unprescribed textbooks and other resources. Learners often share 1 book between 4. Some classes 55-70 learners. Science labs are either ill-equipped or non-existent. Library is inadequate. Big need for additional support and development of all staff.

The GOOD news: Teachers we spoke to report that many of the educators are dedicated and trying hard to make a difference. Parents are generally supportive. There is a yearning to succeed. In both schools, additional support and assistance in collaboration with the staff would be most welcome.

Siyakhula's Schools Enrichment Programme is an attempt to begin to address some of these issues where we can. The type of education we give our children bears close correlation to the type of future we offer them.

Page down for more info...

Siyakhula Schools Enrichment Programme

To provide support to both learners and educators through the following programmes:

- Educator / Teacher Support Programme
- Mentoring and Career Guidance Programme
- Supplementary Tutoring Programme
- Computer Literacy Training
- Winter School Programme

How? By mobilising Core and Occasional Volunteers

Core Volunteer Opportunities

For Siyakhula to make the enrichment programme a reality, we need:

Mentoring and Career Guidance Programme Co-ordinator

The aim of this programme is to ensure all learners and students Siyakhula interacts with have a plan for the future. This would involve researching available bursary, learnership, employment opportunities and making such information readily available. There is also scope for organising motivational talks in the schools and growing awareness of post-school opportunities.

Tutoring and Volunteers Co-ordinator

The aim of the tutoring programme is to provide supplementary tutoring to learners in grade 11 and 12 (initially). The programme co-ordinator will oversee the logistical requirements this involves including sourcing and matching appropriate volunteers with appropriate learners.

SETA Requirements Co-ordinator

We have applied for Isset SETA certification. Some SETA requirements are fairly arduous and time-consuming. Assistance in this process would be highly appreciated. A successful registration should take a few months.

What is expected of core volunteers?

- A standing commitment to Siyakhula for the rest of the year
- Estimate commitment of 10 hours per week (this may vary)
- Must be self-motivated with strong organisational ability
- Generous, enthusiastic, dedicated, creative and loving
- A strong desire to be the change you wish to see in the world.

More information is readily available.

If you're interested, contact me.

Andrew, 082 903 5979 or andrew@wearegrowing.org

