

Swakopmund Secondary School

Interview Session

Details

Date March 29, 2023
Location Swakopmund Secondary School
Time 10:50 AM - 10:59 AM
Duration 00:09:15
Interviewer Peter Korfuzi
Interviewee Mr. Cleopast Ntoni

Transcription

Peter

So, as you know we are students from University working with Justine and the NNOC here. We are rolling out the OVEP teaching about the Olympics and everything. So can we begin with your full name and your role here at this school, and what your school is about.

Ntoni

Ok. My name is Mr. Cleopast Ntoni. I am a mathematics teacher at the school. I am also responsible for the sports; so I am actually the sports coordinator for the school. Other than that I am the guardian of the Learner Representative Council, also. And, uh, our school is mainly a government school that caters to all the learners from different backgrounds. Some are from poor backgrounds while others are from good backgrounds. But we accommodate all. So we have, uh, from grade 8 up to grade 11, plus the (A-kids?), the advanced subsidiary. And we offer different subjects with different languages—local languages.

Peter

Mmm, yea. How is sports at this school location used in your curriculum?

Ntoni

Come again?

Peter

How is sports implemented in your curriculum?

Ntoni

Uhh, in the curriculum itself, one cannot say they are implemented because we don't have the facilities or the ground to offer different activities. But afterschool we do offer different sport activities. Beginning of the year we start off with athletics. After athletics is done then we start

now with (?), we offer football, netball, volleyball, basketball, and then we also have other centers that are assisting in terms of cricket—so our kids do participate in cricket, but they do it in different clubs. AND many other sports activities. And this year, we will also introduce the handball. And I believe, we actually do give enough time towards sports.

Peter

Mm, and you know, with physical activity in general, nourishment and hydration is very important. Do the students struggle with that here? Are they supplied with free lunches? Do they not have packable lunches from home? How is that situation at the school?

Ntoni

So the situation of nutrition, whenever they participate, they representing the school at different events, the school do provide for them. So provide them food and also provide them some drinks so that they do not go hungry. On top of what they bring from home the school also makes sure that there is something for them to, to eat, mm.

Peter

Are you able to speak about the student experience in any sort of way? The challenges that they face which impacts their learning, impacts their interest in the classroom?

Ntoni

Yea, our kids facing many difficulties. Like we had the first one is due to COVID, most of the parents got entrenched or they lost their jobs, so many do come to school hungry. Some do travel long distances—that's why they are (?) which is plus/minus 5 km from here. So, getting to school on time is a challenge. And when they get here they are already tired. Some will be sleeping in class because of the long distance; others do have to sleep because of the fatigue, they are tired from working. Then the interest also, we are facing a big challenge because the kids are not interested in school. I don't know why the problem is, but as much as they attend, some do just come for attendance and not to fully fully participate in school—due to other challenges, then there is also knowing the locations of communities: we have challenges of drug abuse; we have challenges of neglect from parents—parents are not involved at all, some parents are not involved at all—and taking up on the whole thing and uh to make sure that the kids are in school. So those are a few challenges that we are facing, contributing to the poor performance of our learners.

Peter

Yea, and how about the interest of sports at the school?

Ntoni

Yea, the interest in sports is there. Its just that the lack of facilities also sometimes, because the child to leave school and go back home and return again on time is a big challenge. Our kids are staying firm, by the time they reach home to come back for training it will be late. But the interest is there, that's why we also try to provide from the school side so that each child is

getting involved in one or two sports activities. So only distance plus the facilities that are big challenges. But we do cater for them.

Peter

Yea, and from your experience, how much do you feel that the students are aware of being well in selfcare both physically, mentally and emotionally? Do they have a sort of understanding surrounding that?

Ntoni

Yea, Not many of them. So some can balance now their social, physical as well as their emotional issues. So only a few understand that they have to be fit—both physically you must be fit, mentally. So but a lot of them, as long as they attend school, that's enough for them. And after school they go straight home, do no physical activity. And that's why this also contributes now to the poor performance sometimes in school because mentally they are not fit to assist them in participating in whatever needs to be done in school.

Peter

Yea, how about the passion in the students? Do you realize that there is a passion that you have to help them through? Are they generally passionate? Or, what's the situation there?

Ntoni

Yea, let's say, on average, 50% one can say are passionate. But then you get this other 50% who are just uh no where. So but the passion is there; like I said again is just due to time as well as uh the distance from the school to the houses, plus the understanding of the parents themselves—you'll get parents that'll tell the kids “no you are not supposed to take in any sports you are just in school for academic performance”, so the understanding of the parents also affects how the kids are doing.

Peter

Yea, how about the human resources on the school front? Do you have enough teachers, enough qualified teachers to help?

Ntoni

Yea, we have enough qualified teachers, academically. Maybe only on the sports side where we do not get enough qualified sports people, because most of the time you find it is the same person that will be available for volleyball and then you go for athletics, football—its always the same number of teachers. But qualification academically, we do have enough. We only have maybe one or two posts for teaching that we're checking because of returning: one colleague return last year, one is about to go into, resign, so those two positions are the only ones that I think are still open. But all the others are filled with qualified people.

Peter

Yea, what gets you excited about working with the students and engaging with them?

Ntoni

With me, it's exciting because I work with them now in different areas. I work with them at the sports field, I work with them at the school, then I have the leaders, (?) that I work also in leadership. SO but, for me what excite me to see them enjoying what they are doing, and to know that you at least prepare the platform for them to show off their talent. Not only in classes where you meet them, you should also meet them outside—you get to understand them better, and then you also understand their solution as to why does this child behave like this, why does this one... but its always exciting because even the respect they give towards you: it is different from teacher to teacher because they know you are always there whenever they need you.

Peter

Mmm, yea. Mr. Ntoni, thank you very much for your time in providing us with these answers.

Ntoni

Thank you guys for your visit...