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**ADVANCING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION
VOICE OF SA'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**

**COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO
HIGHER EDUCATION AND
TRAINING: SET 8**

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Chief Executive Officer**

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Centurion

TWO MAJOR STUDIES

Cohort Studies by DHET using HEMIS Data 2000 TO 2008

First Time Entering Undergraduate Cohort Studies for Public Higher Education Institutions

published March 2016

Hendrik van Broekhuizen, Servaas van der Berg, and Heleen Hofmeyr

Higher Education Access and Outcomes for the 2008 National Matric Cohort

published September 2016



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COMMON THREADS

1. High dropout rate
2. Average time to completion for a 3-year qualification is about 4.6 years
3. Large differences across universities
4. Require more work to understand what the high dropout rates mean



OTHER FINDINGS

1. Dropout rates decreasing though slowly
2. Success rates are high
3. About 1/3rd of the students who matriculate with a Bachelors Pass do not go on to public university.
4. A large proportion of matriculants who do go to university do not enter university in the year following matric.
5. Matric marks are a good indicator of university access, but are only weakly related to eventual university success, except.....



STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS

1. Fractured schooling system
2. If any, the quality of guidance counselling is very poor
3. Financial pressures on students and families
4. Epistemic access
5. Financial pressures on universities – diffusing academic development from the centre into the faculties.
6. Changes in funding strategies of international and national foundations
7. Excellent experiments that were not systematised.



HOW IS PROGRESS BEING MADE?

1. Renewed emphasis on Teaching and Learning.
2. Teaching Development Grant of DHET.
3. Technology in Improving Learning and Teaching.
4. Siyaphumelela Project – involving 8 universities – understanding how to use data and data analytics better to support student success.
5. Growing emphasis on student centredness.
6. Lecturer development.
7. Gateway courses.

USAF INITIATIVES

1. Higher Education Leadership and Management Programme
2. Communities of Practice
3. Focus on the Student



FOUR YEAR CURRICULUM

Presented to USAF in 2013

1. Cost of rollout. 15-30% complete programmes in minimum time.
2. Distance education has to be considered separately.
3. There isn't a full and complete understanding of the high dropout rates.
4. High success rates – how are we to understand these?

Treating the symptom rather than the cause



SYSTEMIC APPROACHES

Address the deficiencies of the school system.

Reconstruct the PSET system to create a differentiated but fully articulated system. (2 + 2 system)

Continue to improve the quality of learning and teaching in the whole system.

Understand fully what the cause of the high dropout rate is.





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THANK YOU