Maria Monyennye Rinkie Nxumalo obtained a Primary Teacher’s Certificate (PTC) in 1977 from Mokopane College of Education, and matriculated in 1983 through private studies. In 1986 she obtained a Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) from Vista University, in 1988 a Secondary Education Diploma (SED) from Vista. Other qualifications include a BA degree in 1994 (UNISA), BEd degree 1996 with specialization in educational management (UNISA). She started teaching in 1978 at Kgatelopele Combined School. She also taught at Ibhongo Secondary School from 1979 until 2003. Maria is presently re-assigned at Sekwati Primary School.

The purpose of this research was to investigate the causes and factors of learners and some educators indulging themselves in drugs and alcohol during teaching and learning hours. An intensive literature study formed the basis for qualitative research methods. The findings revealed that nearly all Soweto High Schools participated in this study have a problem of drug and alcohol abuse. The study makes relevant contribution by indicating that all support groups and structures need to be involved by intervening using appropriate strategies dealing with drug and alcohol abuse. Policies on drugs, safety and the use of tuck shops must be drawn and be implemented.

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