

Migration, Adult Learning and Recognition: A South Africa Case Study?

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Adult Learning and Migration

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When migrants are able to employ their skills, their work clearly benefits both themselves and receiving societies. But when skilled migrants are compelled to work at jobs that are not commensurate with their qualifications, their capacity to contribute is compromised. Such waste arises from barriers in the recognition of degrees, certificates and qualifications obtained abroad. International cooperation is necessary to improve the portability of qualifications and the mutual recognition of degrees and certification

(United Nations, 2006:15)

Presentation Overview



- 1. The South African context**
- 2. Recognising Foreign Qualifications**
- 3. Challenges Facing Migrants**
- 4. Proposals for Way Forward**



The South African context

- **Historical legacy**
- **Sustained economic growth over last decade**
- **Recession last year – not too severe**
- **Serious shortage of critical skills identified major drawback on economic growth**
- **Two pronged strategy:**
 - Importation of high level skills
 - Development of critical and scarce skills
- **Political instability in Zimbabwe**



Presentation map

1. [The South African context](#)
2. Role of SAQA
3. Recognition of foreign qualifications
4. Challenges facing migrants
5. Proposals for way forward

Role of South African Qualifications Authority.

- **SAQA's mandate is to be the custodian of the South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF) with 3 Quality Councils**
- **Key strategic areas:**
 - Registration of qualifications and part qualifications
 - Registration of Professional Bodies and Registration of Professional Designations
 - As the National Information Centre to Evaluate Foreign Qualifications
 - National Learners' Records Database



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Recognition of Foreign Qualifications.

- **Increase evaluation of high level applications:**
 - 2005 – 895
 - 2009 – 29 347
- **Top Countries Recruited From:**
 - Zimbabwe – 57%
 - India – 7.2%
 - United Kingdom – 4.80%
- **Qualifications in higher education**
 - 85%
- **School level and trade qualifications**
 - 15%



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Recognition of Foreign Qualifications.

- **Migrants who don't apply for evaluation**
- **Large numbers of people crossing border between SA and other African countries**
 - Zimbabwe
 - DRC
 - Somalia
 - Mozambique
- **Large numbers of people displaced due to Xenophobic attacks**
- **With 2010 approach work has been focussed on human trafficking.**
- **Mass literacy campaign also focuses on foreign learners.**
- **365 000 literacy learners have been captured on our NLRD**



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Challenges Faced by Migrants.

- **Access to resources / means to comply with processes**
 - Information on how to
 - Money to apply
- **Lack of Documentation**
- **Prejudice and Xenophobia**
- **Language and other Cultural difference**
- **Mismatch between expectations and reality**
- **Political Opposition**
- **Differences between education and training systems and credible ways of comparison**



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Proposals for Dealing with Migrants.

- **Systematic way of getting the information**
 - Develop national and regional databases to enable credible comparisons
 - Research qualifications and education and training system
 - Develop credible instruments of measurement
 - Focus on other areas other than higher education e.g. vocational education, occupational and training, literacy and post literacy



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Proposals for Dealing with Migrants.

- **Set up national and regional mechanisms to evaluate and recognize qualifications and skills**
- **Promote national and regional qualifications frameworks and Authorities**
- **Streamline legal institutions to make it simpler and easier to understand**
- **Make recognition and processes more accessible to migrants**
- **Undertake research projects and make funding available for comparability of qualifications and part qualifications**



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