
A RESEARCH PROJECT

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at investigating the challenges faced by the education system in the use of ICT in the teaching and learning of Geography in Gwanda North Secondary Schools in Matabeleland South Province. The study used the descriptive survey method as it sought to deal with a large population. A purposive sample was used to take a sample of eight schools 44.4% of the total schools which would represent all the type of schools in the study area while reducing costs for the researcher was limited in finance. The data was analysed using Microsoft Excel and SPSS computer programmes. Results were presented using tables, graphs and pie charts. The results showed that even though the presidential initiative provided computers to secondary schools in Gwanda North there was still inadequate hardware and software in the schools which affected efforts to use ICT in the teaching of Geography. Other than computer hardware, schools were found to be lacking in internet connectivity with only 50% connected. However their undoing was the policies of internet access to students where only 25% of the schools allowed their students to use the internet for Geography research. The study also revealed that teachers were not sufficiently capacitated in terms of initial teacher training and staff development to apply ICT in teaching Geography as 62% of the teachers professed not to have received ICT training to apply in teaching Geography. Furthermore, staff development was not addressing this area in Gwanda North as 71% of the inspectors indicated that Geography teachers had not received staff development in using ICT to teach Geography. ICT policies in the district and schools needed to be formulated to guide the acquisition, use, and supervisory practices. It was recommended that staff development and college ICT curricula needed to be strengthened while schools made efforts to acquire more hardware. The government and private sector needed to assist schools to connect to the internet.