

ASSESSMENT ON THE CONFIDENCE LEVELS OF EDUCATORS TEACHING STATISTICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Desiree Timmet
Statistics South Africa
desireet@statssa.gov.za

INTRODUCTION

Statistics is fairly new in the South African school curriculum. More than 60% of educators completed their studies without any formal study in statistics. In the new curriculum of South Africa, the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS), statistics is a compulsory module in mathematics for all grades

THE ROLE OF STATISTICS SA

The goal of the Maths4stats program is to capacitate educators for improved teaching of statistics at school level, potentially resulting in more learners interested in studying statistics. The Maths4stats program is one of Statistics South Africa's projects initiated to encourage the development of statistics.

Maths4stats in collaboration with the Department of Education and The University of the Western Cape have conducted a series of in depth statistics workshops to 178 educators. The lecturers of the university facilitated the training using the maths4stats material and also their own resources. The quality and wealth of knowledge that they brought to the training attracted curriculum advisors of all districts.

FEEDBACK FROM EDUCATORS

The educators appreciated the fact that the focus was not just the content of the curriculum, but focused on an in depth understanding of data handling and probability study. Casio and Sharp calculator representatives presented hands-on presentations to educators. Educators highlighted the challenge in the classrooms dealing with learners that have different calculators.

CONCLUSION

47% of educators that attended the workshops indicated that they are still not confident to teach statistics. Future and also on going interventions are still needed to ensure that mathematics teachers become well informed and confident to teach topics such as data handling, probability and regression analysis