**Tshepo - School D - Interview transcription**

1. **Which topics do you teach in Life Orientation that prepare or may prepare Grade 12 learners for tertiary education?**

Careers and Career choice topic – where we advise them about certain institutions which they can study at , where we also inform them that they do not have to study at Universities only , there are also TVET where they can become artisans, and if they did not perform well they can have an option to upgrade their marks, they can choose to work after completing grade 12 and or even participate in learnership. We also invite institutions to come and share with them the required information about studying at Universities. So we are trying our level best in helping this kids….

Also health issues , it is also a major thing – whereby we encourage our learners to live a healthy lifestyle and how to conduct themselves

We encourage them to participate in extra-curricular activities because it might be helpful for them …some do consider studying something related to their talents.

We also help them mentally …with this issues to assist them to avoid this issues of being depressed…so that they can be able to cope with mental health issues and

And also being a responsible citizen, how to behave….we teach them that rights go along with responsibility and accountability.

1. **What is your understanding of the word “support” in context of preparing learners for transition to tertiary education?**

Support is about guiding these learners, it is about giving these learners materials, giving them information, exposing them to a number of career exhibitions.

Institutions such as UP, UFS, UJ, Wits UFS , NWU and other private institutions visited our school this year. And also the skills colleges such as designer colleges do come to visit our learners. So inviting this institutions is part of the support that I give to the Grade 12 learners.

1. **How do you currently support Grade 12 learners to prepare for the transition to tertiary education?**

Like I said before …Ummm We need to give them more information about what is happening out there at tertiary institutions , share with them the challenges they may experience in tertiary….ummm they need to be prepared and know that next year they will be in a totally different environment so they need to also be independent.

1. **What role do you play in supporting Grade 12 learners for smooth transition to tertiary education?**

Share information about tertiary institutions with them….I think I have shared these information in the previous question.

1. **What support strategies are you currently using to prepare Grade 12 learners for tertiary education?**

There are extra classes offered that may assist them to boost their marks.

I provide them with an opportunity to engage with other teachers to ask them about their career journeys

I invite universities to come to the school to share with our learners information about qualifications they offer you see…

We also encourage them to participate in extra mural activities which may assist them to have healthy minds.

1. **Share any other support strategies that may be useful in preparing Grade 12 learners for tertiary education?**

Like I said in the previous question, I expose my learners. You know all the information I shared like inviting TVETS and universities yah…

1. **Which aspects/factors do you think can assist Grade 12 learners to transition to tertiary education?**

I have individual sessions with my learners where I am able to identify personal issues or unique issues that they may have and then I manage to know how to support them. So by doing this , I am able to support them holistically…the more they open up the more you know where do they need support.

Parents play a part because they are the key support structure in terms of assisting with financial support , even though there are bursaries to assist with funding. Others are also able to afford to pay for their kids fees at tertiary

Parents also assist their children to apply but usually as an LO teacher I assist my learners to apply for tertiary education, because now applications are online.

1. **Which aspects/factors do you think can be the barriers for Grade 12 learners to transition to tertiary education?**

Lack of financial support – if they do not have financial support , a learner may struggle to study further because of lack of finances.

Of course not passing with Bachelor pass or with a pass requirement that will grant them admission to tertiary education.

Failing Grade 12 – obviously if you fail you will not be able to study further.

Learning barriers – learners who have learning barriers may struggle to access higher education studies because they need more support….but here at least we try …their parents support, the Department support and we also support as the school because we arrange for the scribers during examinations, extra – time during examinations. Fortunately some learners with barriers end up attending special schools where they get full support.

Sometimes parents may also choose qualifications for their children and try to force them to pursue them which is so unfortunate because learners end up not studying further or even dropping out.

1. **Is there anything else that you think I should know relating to the support and preparation of Grade 12 learners for tertiary education?**

Yah I think we should do more career guidance in Grade 9. Because they choose subjects in Grade 10 already. Grade 12 must just be about cementing what they already know. They should not start at Grade 12 because they find themselves doing subjects that are not compatible with their career options. So I think a lot has to be done in Grade 9 already.

Additionally, here in our school we have a challenge of not having a clear stream , learners just pick and choose subjects as they wish. This has an effect on their career options because learners do accounting with Mathematics literacy, I know streams are limiting but I personally believe that streams do help in guiding the learners to pair subjects. Haek our students suffer ultimately….. but hey I do not have the powers to change that……