

Remarkable Partnerships for Inclusion



Partnerships that extend support to the most marginalised communities

It's often said, that there has never been a better time for non-profit organisations and companies to partner. This year, there have been many examples that reflect the power and potential of partnerships. Partnerships that are helping us spread inclusive practices to the most marginalised communities in South Africa.

Partnerships offer valuable opportunities for NPO's and companies. These include building credibility; financial support; the sharing of resources; reaching new audiences; innovation; exposure; enhancing relationships; demonstrating a bigger purpose and, most of all, making a real difference.

NPO's and companies partnering together to 'do good', is not a new idea. One of the earliest examples was in 1983, when American Express ran a sales promotion linked to the restoration of the Statue of Liberty Project. The NPO managed to achieve its goal, while American Express contributed to an historical landmark and received wonderful exposure.

Closer to home, corporate social investment spend in South Africa over the last few years has been averaging R8 billion, with close to 90% of this expenditure dedicated to support education. This includes high investments in maths and science

projects, classroom technology, reading programmes, teacher curriculum training and school infrastructure.

We believe that models and investments that seek to improve education outcomes focusing solely on improving curriculum content knowledge of teachers, particularly in mathematics, science and literacy, have shown limited improvement in results. What these interventions lack is an understanding of the barriers that stand in the way of learners being able to learn and the whole-school strategies needed to address these barriers.

Interventions need to include a critical examination of the school ethos and policies, promotion of inclusive school leadership and the establishment of strong school-based support structures. IESA closes this gap. We engage key partners and companies, to improve the outcomes of their education investment.

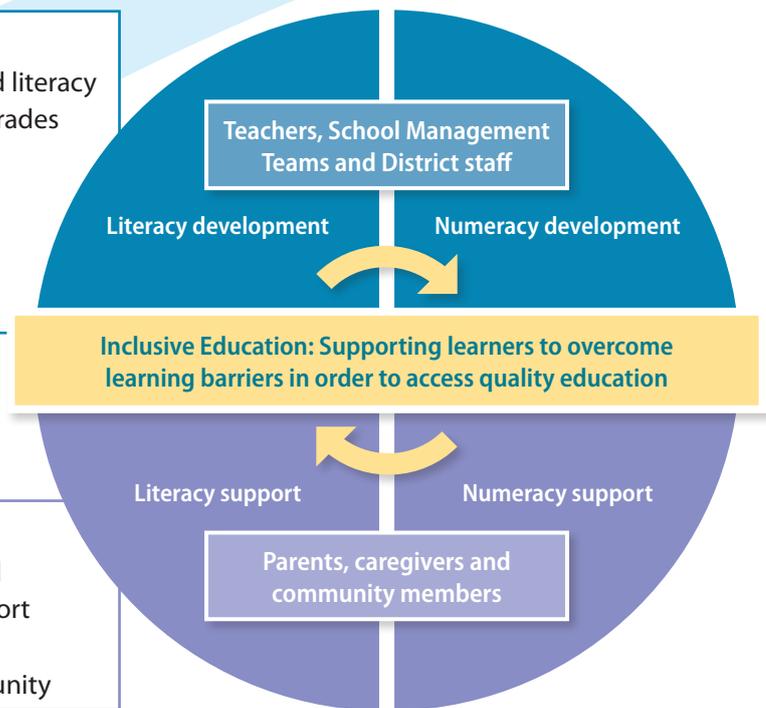
An example is our success in the Eastern Cape, Grahamstown – a province where education outcomes remain extremely poor. These learners experience significant barriers to learning that are often rooted in socio-economic circumstances and their rural location. Teachers are often not equipped with the necessary skills and training to support these learners.

In-school support (Goals)

- Improved performance in numeracy and literacy
- Improved grade promotions across all grades
- Improved teaching skills and content knowledge
- Improved curriculum management and delivery
- Improved district support to schools

Community support (Goals)

- Children's interest in learning stimulated
- Parents/ caregivers empowered to support their children to learn
- Develop education facilitators in community



One of our funding partners made an initial investment in a local NPO, with the aim of improving the curriculum understanding of educators in maths and science in 7 schools. They soon realised that curriculum understanding was not sufficient to realize their desired impact. The need for teachers to differentiate their teaching of these subjects was equally important. Through mutual discussions, IESA was brought on board to develop the ability of educators to meet the different needs of learner. Through our added intervention, the schools are thriving and children are being supported to learn to their full potential. This partnership works to improve the quality of teaching and learner results.

Another exciting partnership that IESA has embarked on is with the Kagiso Shanduka Trust (KST) – IESA complements KST's initial work on

whole-school transformation. IESA is working in 36 schools in the Motheo district, Free State to ensure that inclusion is part of their whole-school development. We will keep you posted on this partnership in the coming months.

IESA seeks to ensure that all investments made in education in South Africa, have inclusion as its cornerstone. Partnerships offer a great opportunity to ensure that investments and programmes offer great value to beneficiaries. We are looking forward to more conversations and creating strong longer term partnerships in the coming months.

*Become
our partner in
advancing support
in education.*

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