The transition from high school to university involves psychosocial challenges due to discontinuities between the two settings.

Challenges extend beyond the classroom to include time management, finances, and living arrangements.

Classroom dynamics and social challenges like harassment and making friends can impact the transition.

High school educators play a key role in preparing learners for tertiary education.

Research focuses on educators' perceptions to identify challenges and inform strategies for better preparing high school students for university.

**Inadequate Academic Preparation**:

**94%** of educators perceive learners lack academic preparation for university

**Reasons:**

System pushing learners without proper reading/writing skills

Insufficient prior knowledge in Math

Time constraints to cover necessary curriculum

Educators teaching unqualified subjects:

Science teacher teaching Technology

Geography teacher teaching Life Science

**Lack of resources:**

Insufficient or no resources for teaching

No equipment for practical work

Poorly equipped library limiting research projects

**Subject Selection & Career Pathing:**

**73%** educators cite poor subject selection impacting transition to HS

No specific guidance/counseling educators

Schools provide extra classes, matric camps, motivational speakers

Parent involvement in interventions & progress reports

Encouragement for winter schools & financial assistance

Peer & parental pressure influencing subject choices

Unrealistic expectations from parents leading to failure

**Personal & Social Issues:**

**Child-headed Families (75% educators cited):**

Unique South African problem with ~122,000 households.

Affects learners' education due to poverty and parental absence.

Educators must balance discipline with empathy.

**Poor Learner Motivation (59% educators cited):**

Hinders academic achievement.

Examples of sub-standard project feedback and lack of research effort.

Difficulty in reading comprehension.

**Study Skills & Orientation:**

Some learners lack basic study skills.

Educators struggle to provide guidance and maintain focus in class.

**Language Proficiency:**

69% educators cite language proficiency as a challenge.

Transition from mother tongue to English instruction causes issues.

Most learners are non-native English speakers, needing development.

Educators struggle to build reading, writing, and sentence construction skills.

**discussion**

Adequate facilities & expertise crucial for higher education readiness. Studied schools underresourced, yet educators improvise. Language barriers & inadequate teacher knowledge hinder learning. All teachers contribute to literacy; educators need content knowledge for effective teaching. Poor career pathing may hinder transition to tertiary education.