



Education and Skills Development

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TIMSS 2015: how did we do?

The results of the 2015 TIMSS cycle were released on the 29th November 2016. South Africa participated in TIMSS 2015 at the Grade 5 level in Numeracy, and at the Grade 9 level in both Mathematics and Science. These results provide important information about the state of mathematics and science education in the country and what is required for improving the quality of education. In addition, the TIMSS data allows for trend analysis of the results which provides insight into whether or not mathematics and science education is improving over time. This month's newsletter focuses on the TIMSS results for South Africa.

Mathematics Achievement amongst Grade 5 learners

For the first time, South African Grade 5 learners participated in TIMSS Numeracy which assesses the foundational mathematical knowledge, procedures and problem-solving strategies of learners. Included in the assessment is a questionnaire administered to parents in which information on early educational activities is collected. This highlights document presents the preliminary analysis of the data.

Mathematics and Science Achievement of Grade 9 Learners

South African Grade 9 learners took part in TIMSS Mathematics and Science assessments for the fifth time since 1995, providing a wealth of data on how Grade 9 learners achieve in these subjects and whether achievement is improving. This highlights document presents the preliminary analysis of the data.

Results release presentation

Dr Vijay Reddy, the Executive Director of the HSRC's Education and Skills Development research programme and the Principal Investigator for TIMSS, presented the much anticipated results of TIMSS 2015 at the launch at the Department of Basic Education in Pretoria. Using the metaphor of "green shoots" she highlighted the results of both the TIMSS Grade 5 and Grade 9 studies.

Basic Education Minister responds to the results

The Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga, attended the release of the TIMSS 2015 results. She responded to the results in a speech focusing on South African learners' achievement and the implications of TIMSS.

International TIMSS Reports

In 2015, 57 countries and 7 benchmarking entities (regional jurisdictions of countries such as states or provinces) participated in TIMSS. In total, more than 580,000 students participated in TIMSS 2015. The International TIMSS results were also released on the 29 November. These results allow for a comparison of South Africa with other participating countries. The mathematics results can be found [here](#) and the science results can be accessed [here](#).

TIMSS SA: Frequently Asked Questions

In order to provide a better understanding of TIMSS, we have created a page for frequently asked questions, which provides information on TIMSS in the South African context as well as technical information about TIMSS.

INTERESTED IN USING TIMSS DATA FOR YOUR RESEARCH?

If you are interested in working with us on publications based on the TIMSS data, please [contact us](#).

www.timss-sa.org.za