

**Perceptions of Educator-coordinators about the Administration
of the National School Nutrition Program (NSNP) in South
African Primary Schools**

Vuyiswa Qila and Nonzukiso Tyilo*

*University of Fort Hare, Faculty of Education, School of Further and Continuing Education,
Alice, South Africa, 5700
*E-mail: ptyilo@ufh.ac.za***KEYWORDS** Administration. Challenges. Educator-coordinator. Food Handlers. Nutrition. Perceptions.**ABSTRACT** This paper investigates the perceptions of educator-coordinators in the administration of National School Nutrition Program (NSNP) in South African primary schools. The study adopted the Distributed Leadership Model based on the view that it recognizes that people have the potential to lead and that there should be reciprocal congruence between vertical and horizontal leadership positions. This paper has adopted a qualitative approach that is interpretive in orientation. The semi-structured interviews and document analysis were used to collect data from three educator-coordinators purposely selected from three South African primary schools. Thematic analysis was used in analyzing the collected data. The results indicated that educator-coordinators experienced challenges when it comes to the administration of NSNP in schools. The study recommends that to ensure effective administration of NSNP, educator-coordinators should be actively involved as they work directly with the learners and food handlers at school.