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Social Responsibility in Augmenting High School Maths Learning for University Studies

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ABSTRACT Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) is a university in South Africa launched on the 1st of January 2015. Its students come mostly from poor families in under-resourced South African living areas. A decent pass in matric mathematics (maths) is the main criterion for admission into SMU programs. However, maths pass rates are habitually low. In attempting to improve matric maths passes, some SMU maths lecturers undertook a study to uncover the bases of problems. The study objective was to determine why matric maths passes were low, and what interventions could be effective to improve matric maths performance. The lecturers then offered intervention maths classes to local schools, teaching some maths areas. The study identified the toughest maths areas, and the teachers' training deficiencies. The intervention was effective only for schools with poor results. This signaled sub-optimality of the interventions. Improvements on the intervention methods were recommended.