



## **Evidence-Based Assessment – The Answer to Challenges of Assessment in Educational Psychology Practice in Diverse Societies?**

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**ABSTRACT** In this paper the researchers concentrated on the possible application of Evidence Based Assessment as part of Evidence Based Practice within educational psychology practice in a diverse society such as South Africa. Evidence Based Practice is a means of ensuring a scientific foundation for professional practice. Reliable, valid, culturally sensitive assessment instruments and therapeutic interventions are important in EBP. A qualitative research approach was used with semi-structured interviews as method to deduce what challenges South African educational psychologists experience specifically with assessment. There were eight conversational partners purposefully selected for diversity in culture, language and era of training. The interviews were transcribed and themes were identified using Colaizzi's steps. Most of the research participants (conversational partners) experienced challenges in assessing their clients. Recommendations are made for the training of novice and veteran educational psychologists, to instill the philosophy of EBP with EBA in the South African educational psychology fraternity.