



## **Pre-school Experiences and Formal School Readiness of Six-Year-Olds: The Stakeholders' Views**

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**ABSTRACT** The importance of pre-school in getting children ready for formal learning cannot be underrated as fifty percent of brain development takes place at this stage. Besides offering affordable day-care, health service and poverty alleviation, pre-school prepares children for formal learning. A qualitative research approach, which views human behaviour as a product of people's interpretation of their world was adopted. Data collected through one focus group discussion with stakeholders; semi-structured interviews with four pre-school educators and four Grade One educators were thematically analysed to reveal the views of stakeholders on formal school readiness for pre-school graduates. Findings suggest that children are not adequately prepared for formal schooling. Results equally show that high quality pre-school service with higher staff qualification correlates with better intellectual and psychosocial development; yet very few centres had qualified educators. The study recommends intensive teacher training, attractive salary structure and equity in provisioning for pre-school classes timeously.