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These resources may be ordered from the Media Department, Idasa, 1 Penzance Rd, Mowbray, Cape Town 7700. (Tel 47-3127).

## AVAILABLE SOON

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE: IDEAS FOR CHANGE IN SCHOOLS

R15,00

Desegregating South African schools signifies dramatic and irreversible progress towards democratic, non-racial education for all children. As welcome as this is, it is inevitably accompanied by insecurities, anxieties and questions.

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE: IDEAS FOR CHANGE IN SCHOOLS is a handy workbook for teachers, parents and all people interested in the evolving education system. It is written by teachers and provides a series of activities designed to examine the issues raised in today's mixed-race classrooms – language policy, class size, interracial tolerance, cultural dominance.**

The workshop sessions encourage active participation by those involved in educating children; those who are facing the difficulties and discovering the possibilities.

Published by Idasa and Oxford University Press. Available mid-September from bookstores, Idasa and OUP.

# Education breakdown needs local remedies

By NDUMI GWAYI

Regional efforts were needed to counter the breakdown in teaching and learning, Dr Steve Fourie of Rhodes University told a seminar hosted by Idasa in East London recently.

The seminar, which focused on education for empowerment, was aimed at unscrambling the problems of transition in education in the Border/Transkei/Ciskei region, and consolidating efforts to rationalise education and nurture a culture of learning and teaching in the region.

Dr Fourie, who was the keynote speaker, said education not only empowered by providing the skills and knowledge which are needed in the workplace, but also by promoting "creative self-discovery" and broadening understanding of the wider world and society generally through critical thinking, tolerance of other views and problem solving.

Dr Fourie pointed out that education at present was not living up to its full potential because "Christian National Education", as adopted and applied by the Nationalist government, had been authoritarian and ideological and had disempowered the majority of the people of South Africa.

The openness of organisations and authorities to rationalisation was, however, questioned by Dr Fourie. He intimated that all players in the education sector should forsake sloganeering or dictating terms in favour of concrete steps to remedy the situation. Commissions looked at how present structures could work together to overcome obstacles, at legislation affecting education in the region and how interventions can be made, how to optimally utilise available resources and at non-formal and special needs education.

The seminar attracted participation from almost all education service organisations and education department representatives in the region. Gideon Sam, from Independent Teachers Enrichment Centre, wound up the proceedings, noting the willingness of participants to look at issues together. A broader conference, including business, workers, parents and so on, was an urgent priority, he said. A committee was elected to take the recommendations of the various commissions further, to facilitate further co-operation in the region and to organise a more representative conference.

Ndumi Gwayi is Idasa's regional director in the Border area.