
Empowering Women through TVET: Celebrating Women's Month 2024

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August marks two significant celebrations in South Africa: Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Month, as declared by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), and Women's Month, commemorating the 1956 protest Pass Laws by over 20,000 women. These concurrent observances provide a unique opportunity to highlight and promote the TVET College Sector while honouring the resilience, strength, and achievements of South African women.

The Importance of TVET

The DHET's declaration of August as TVET Month underscores the importance of positioning TVET colleges as a premier choice for higher education. This initiative challenges the outdated perception that TVET programmes are inferior, instead showcasing them as vital pathways to successful careers. TVET colleges play a crucial role in developing the necessary artisans for South Africa's Strategic Infrastructure Projects, which include building roads, schools, universities, harbours, power stations, and other essential infrastructure.

Celebrating Women's Month

Women's Month 2024 comes at a time when South Africa marks 30 years of democracy, celebrating women as active agents of change and social transformation. We honour women from all walks of life for their roles in social justice, recognising their contributions to shaping the nation and restoring human dignity. This month, we also reflect on the barriers women face, including discrimination, gender-based violence, wage gaps, and the struggle for equal opportunities. By looking back on the journey travelled, we can gain support for women's further development in the Post School Education and Training (PSET) sector.

Encouraging Young Women in TVET

In the spirit of Women's Month, young women are especially encouraged to enrol in TVET programmes. For learners who have passed Grade 9 or completed their Senior Certificate but are not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET), TVET colleges offer numerous opportunities to gain further qualifications and pursue fulfilling careers. The Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) recognise and promote the critical role of TVET and the value of vocational training.

Lifelong Learning with the NQF

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) continues to support lifelong learners by providing a structured framework that allows individuals to progress at different stages of their lives. This framework addresses the diverse education, training, and development needs of the country, ensuring that all learners have access to quality education and training.

A Call to Action

As we celebrate Women's Month, SAQA wishes all the women a joyous and empowering month. We call upon all South African citizens to reaffirm our commitment to gender equality and women's rights. Let us empower and uplift every woman's dream. Together, let us continue to celebrate the achievements of women and commit to advocating for change.

Conclusion

August 2024 presents a powerful convergence of TVET Month and Women's Month, offering a platform to promote education, honour women's contributions, and address ongoing challenges. By supporting and encouraging young women to engage in TVET programmes, we can pave the way for a brighter, more equitable future. This month, let us celebrate the strength, resilience, and achievements of women, and reaffirm our dedication to their empowerment and the advancement of gender equality in South Africa.