



# National University of Science and Technology

Think in Other Terms



**An investigation into the factors/ challenges facing the effective teaching or  
learning of mathematics at Ordinary Level. A case study of Gideon Mhlanga**

**Cluster in Chipinge District, Zimbabwe.**

**By Wafawanaka Francis**

**N0108899F**

LIBRARY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PO BOX 167 BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE		
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# Abstract

Poor achievement in Mathematics at Secondary Level is a long standing problem in Zimbabwe, especially in Rural Secondary Schools. A number of studies, mostly quantitative have attempted to look into the causes of this problem. This study is set to investigate factors that contribute to low achievement in Mathematics at Ordinary Level in Rural Secondary Schools. A sample of thirty two learners, four heads of schools, twelve mathematics educators and twelve school development committee members from purposively chosen schools were interviewed.

The factors that were found to specifically affect learners included lack of resource materials, educator ineffectiveness, administrative tendencies, rampant absenteeism among learners and home environment factors