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This month's blog...

The newest member of our team, Catherine Namome, provides an account of her [experiences doing quality assurance for TIMSS 2015](#) at a rural school in Gauteng. Through her description, she highlights the importance of the relationship between schools and their surrounding communities.

Do South Africans care about science?

The annual South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) explores the attitudes of citizens of the country to various issues. A [recent report](#) by the HSRC examined the South African public's attitudes towards science, astronomy and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Telescope, as well as their knowledge and awareness of these topics, based on the 2013 SASAS data.

South African Annual National Assessment: Improving teaching and learning?

The Department of Basic Education recently announced the postponement of the 2015 South African Annual National Assessment (ANA), sparking debate concerning its associated costs and benefits. A 2013 policy brief produced by the HSRC, which investigated how teaching and learning could be improved through the ANA by focusing on the [challenges, possibilities and solutions](#), may contribute to this discussion.

Challenging the narrative of the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness report

The 2015 World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Competitiveness report has placed South Africa at 138 out of 140 countries in terms of its Maths and Science education. Although this presents a gloomy picture of the state of education in the country, [an article](#) published by the HSRC in 2014 challenged the accuracy of the narrative presented by the WEF.



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