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Teachers miss class 20 days a year - study

Barry Bateman | 18 Hours Ago

A Human Science Research Council (HSRC) study has found that official duties kept too many teachers and principals away from classrooms and hampered teaching.

The study also found that the abuse of sick leave was a major contributing factor while teachers' leave was often under-recorded. The research was commissioned by the Department of Education and released in Pretoria on Monday morning.

According to the study, the teacher leave rate was between 10 to 12 percent over a 200 working day year.

"That means that every teacher on average is away for 20 days a year," said the council's Vijay Reddy.

Reddy said several immediate steps could be taken to reduce the leave rate.

"We can reduce the number of days that teachers have to go away on official duties," she said. "If we can cap the amount of days that principals are away from schools, this will reduce the leave rate."

She said addressing these problems would be critical in improving pass rates.