



**Basic Concepts**  
Building Thinking - Harnessing Potential  
foundation

## **BASIC CONCEPTS ADVOCACY PROJECT**

### **PHASE 2: FRANCES BAARD (2020-2021)**

#### **REPORT 3**

As a result of Covid-19, the scheduled in-person training in Frances Baard district could not proceed, and we rapidly needed to find alternative methods of training. We therefore began to implement an online group-based training and have scheduled a comprehensive online training programme for the year. The 12 training sessions (2 sessions per domain) will be spaced out over the year allowing adequate time for implementation inside the classroom.

- Name of trainers and facilitator/s:

Louis Benjamin (trainer)

Diane Goldsmith (trainer)

Gill Brand (facilitator)

- Date and Time:

Session 5: 22 June, 14:00-16h00

Session 6: 23 June, 14:00-16:00

- Main Foci of the sessions:

Refresher of the Concept Teaching Model and Mediation with the main focus on the Conceptual Domain of Size

- Register with names, including all officials:

[Click here to access the GOOGLE SHEET](#)

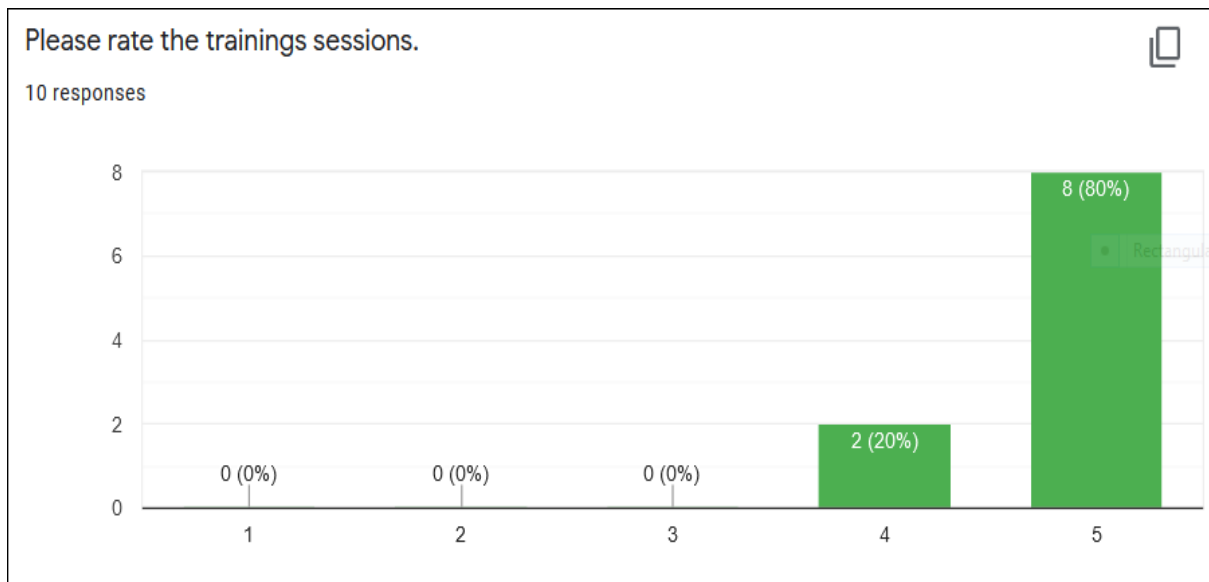
- Attendance Statistics:

| Session | Date    | Present  | Apologies | Absent   |
|---------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 5       | 22 June | 40 (73%) | 0 (0%)    | 15(27%)  |
| 6       | 23 June | 36 (65%) | 2 (4%)    | 17 (31%) |

**\*\*Number of catch-up views of the recorded session: Session 5 = 18 & Session 6 = 7**

- Evaluation of training: 26% of attendees drawn from 5 of the 6 teacher clusters responded.

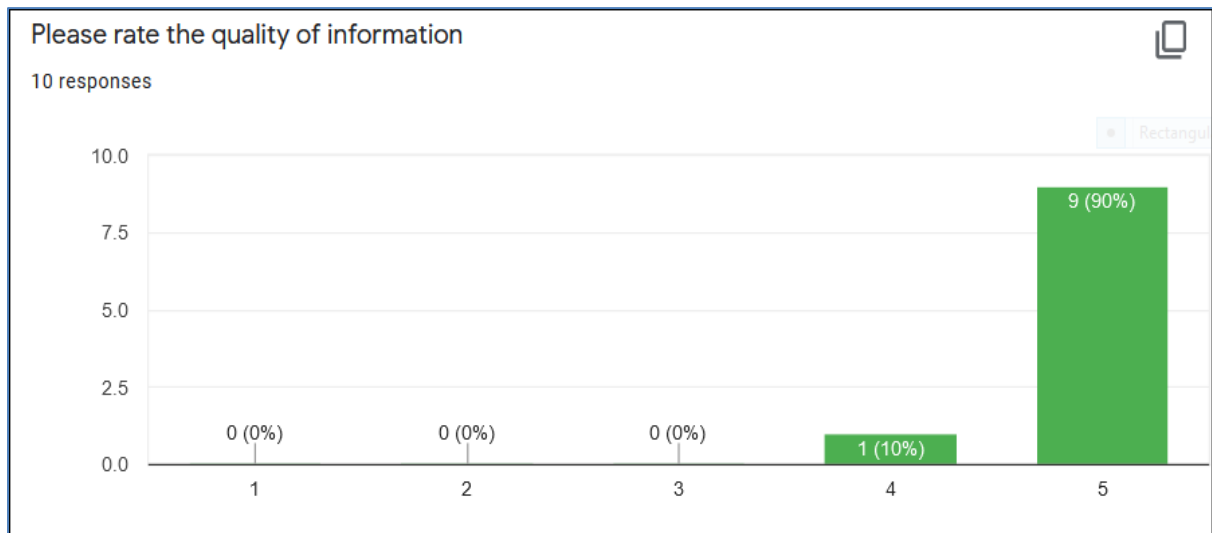
i) Rate the training sessions: -



Scale: 1= very poor / 2 = poor / 3 = average / 4= good / 5= excellent

**100%** of the teachers rated the overall training as either *excellent* (80%) or *good* (20%).

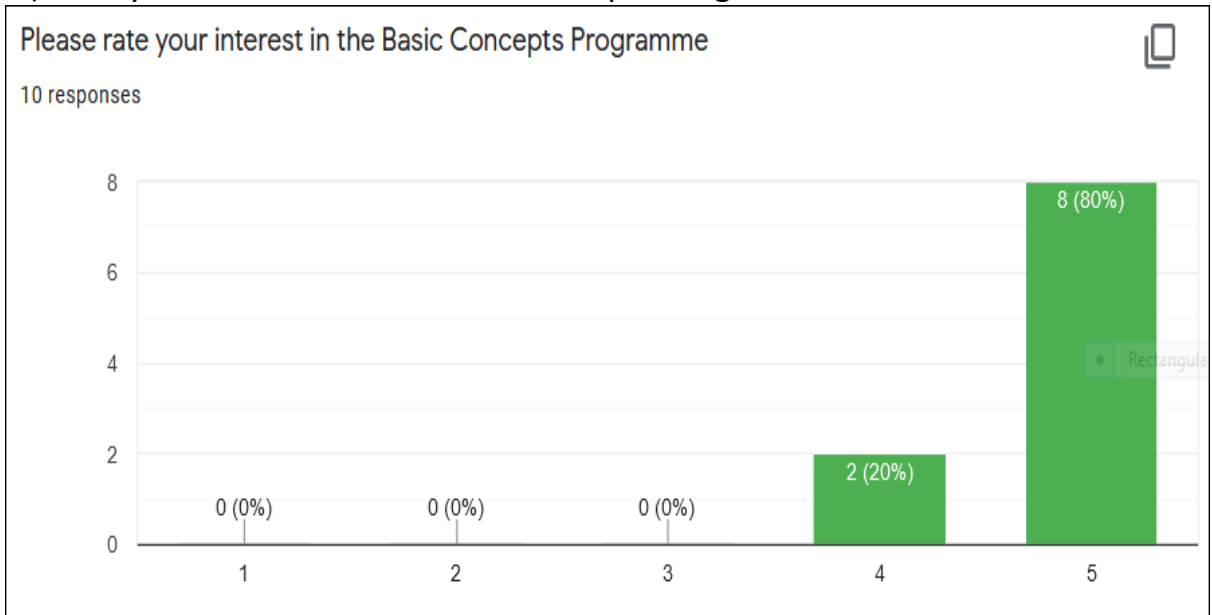
ii) Rate the quality of the information presented: -



Scale: 1= very poor | 2 = poor | 3 = average | 4= good | 5= excellent

**100%** of the teachers rated the quality of the information as either *excellent* (**90%**) or *good* (**10%**).

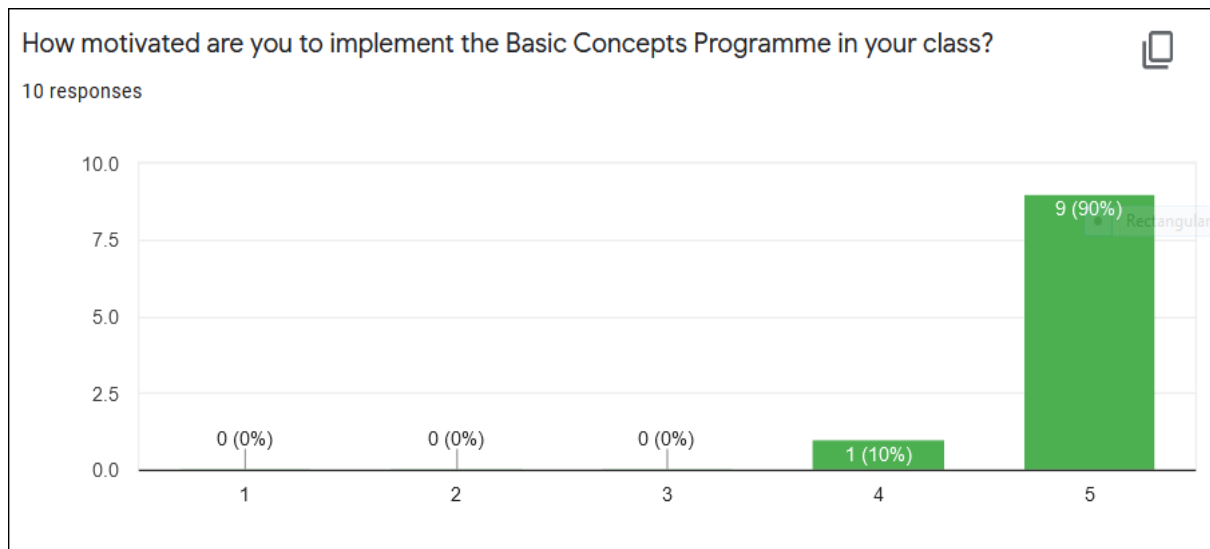
iii) Rate your interest in the Basic Concepts Programme:-



Scale: 1= very low | 2 = low | 3 = average | 4= high | 5= very high

**100%** of the teachers rated their interest in the Basic Concepts Programme as either very high (80%) or high (20%).

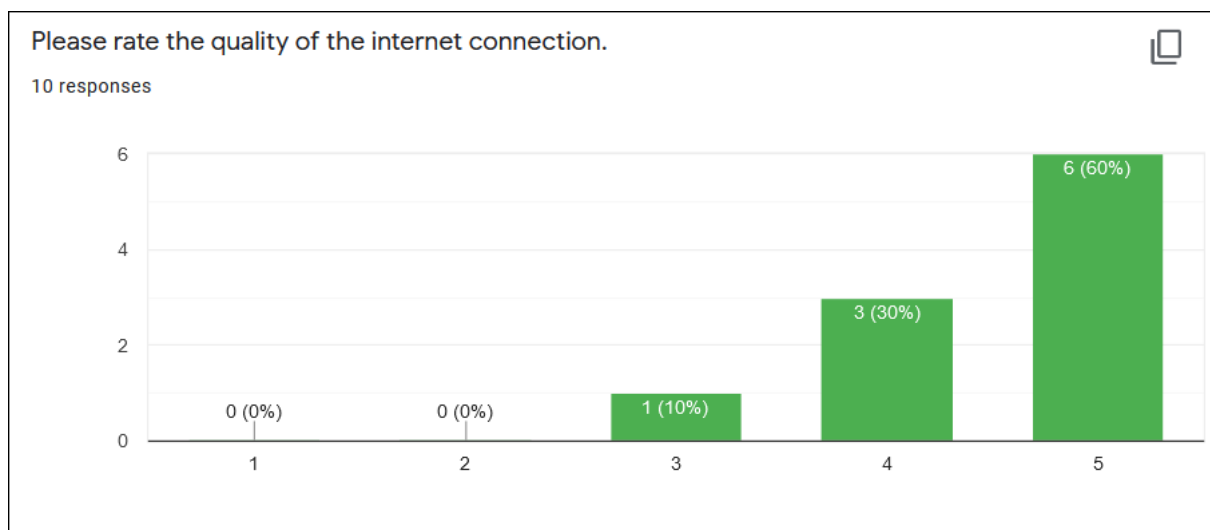
iv) Rate your motivation to implement the BCP in your class: -



Scale: 1= very low / 2 = low / 3 = average / 4= high / 5= very high

**100%** of the teachers rated their motivation to implement the BCP as either *very high (90%)* or *high (10%)*.

v) Rate the quality of your internet connection:-



Scale: 1= very poor / 2 = poor / 3 = average / 4= good / 5= excellent

**90%** rated their internet connection as either *good (30%)* or *excellent (60%)*, while **10%** rated their connection as *average*.

- General Comments: -

i) The overall feedback from the teachers about the training was highly positive. There have been very few differences in the ratings of the teachers over the first three sets of training sessions. The following qualitative comments were made about the current training sessions:-

*Training is wonderful. I, as an HOD, wish that the Grade 1 educators could also get training to just refresh their minds!*

*The training helps a lot and helps me as a teacher to better carry over the concepts to learners in more detail.*

*I come to enjoy every session. I look forward to the next session already. Thank you so much for this Basic Concept training. You're the best.*

*Perhaps the session could be a little bit shorter? It's using lots of data. It takes long to start; the revision part can be shorter.*

*Training is very informative*

*Very informative!!! I'm very excited to implement...*

*I'm happy with everything.*

*The training is very good and one learns new things every time.*

*Even though I do implement most of the steps in my classroom, I find that I am still learning.*

*Thank you for the workshops, it is quite informative and one learns new ways to teach and getting information across to learners*

*This week session was excellent 🙌.*

ii) While the average attendance (70%) at both the training sessions was satisfactory, the attendance at the second session was of some concern (65%). This has been the lowest level of attendance at a training session since the start of the year; that is, out of 6 training sessions. However, one should consider that there were an additional 7 views of the recording after the second training session, which would improve the participation rate to around 78%. In the same way, the number of views of the recording after the first training session increased the participation levels at this session to over 100%!

iii) The training sessions focussed on a new conceptual domain for this group of project teachers. The first two sets of training were essentially refresher sessions for the majority of the teachers, who were at the training last year.

iv) The teachers were sent training materials (training notes, A3 laminated small group activities as well as associated workbook templates) before the current training sessions.

v) While most of the participants viewed the sessions from a public venue, others preferred to view the sessions from home because of the COVID-19 pandemic. All participants rated the quality of their online connections very highly. These findings seemed to suggest that teachers could successfully access the session from their homes.

vi) There has been an overall increase in the level of interest in the BCP and motivation to implement the programme from 85% to 100% since the second set of training sessions.

- Conclusion

The training sessions were reasonably well supported by the teachers and their schools however we were concerned about the attendance levels at the second training session and also the lack of feedback from teachers who did not attend this session. A follow-up is to be conducted with the district officials and teachers involved to determine the main reason/s for their absence. We must however remember that the 3<sup>rd</sup> COVID wave (which is now developing at an alarming rate throughout the country) was already present in the Northern Cape at the time of these training sessions. Because of this, many teachers requested to

attend sessions from home rather than at public venues at their schools. While it is more difficult to track teachers who attend the training sessions from alternate venues, it has been our approach not to force teachers to attend training sessions from a particular venue during these times. In spite of the lower attendance, we were very pleased to find that there had been a strengthening of interest in the Basic Concepts Programme and motivation of teachers to run the programme in their classes since the start of the year. In conclusion, we are encouraged by the progress that has been made during these very difficult times, particularly considering that we have only had limited face-to-face contact with these teachers. We will however need to ensure that the teachers who have missed training sessions have been able to catch up.