



Mosete Joyce Phasha

is a renowned Consumer Studies teacher, community builder, motivator and businessperson. She has an abiding sense of self-confidence and a belief in excellence that has seen many of her learners at The Glen High School transforming their lives forever.

I grew up in the village of Ga-Nkwana in Sekhukhune, Limpopo. I completed both my primary and high school training in this community. I come from a family of women who love to cook and I was naturally drawn towards consumer studies in my schooling years. My family encouraged us to follow our passions and supported our aspirations. I wouldn't be who I am today without their love, prayers and guidance.

Helping others comes naturally because I was very active in community building and civic engagement for the longest time. I founded the Ga-Nkooane Community Development project, where kids were taught dance, drama, music sports and many other activities. We did this to keep them away from drugs and alcohol. It really shifted their focus towards positive activities.

The biggest influencers in my career were my parents and grandmother. From an early age, they told me I could be anything in the world. I can't explain how valuable it was to have parents saying that to me every day, especially since I grew up in the apartheid era. As a result, I know no limitations to my abilities. When people told me I couldn't do certain things, I always knew it could work out because of that mind-set instilled in me. I must mention Mrs Annelie Weidemann, my subject advisor when I started working at my current school, who has been incredibly supportive of my teaching career from day one. She constantly encouraged me to go beyond my limitations. I am blessed to have met such a person in my life.

I got my teacher's diploma at Mokopane College. While teaching, I furthered my studies and obtained higher education diploma in Home Economics from Vista University. I then enrolled for a BA in Consumer Science at UNISA and went on to graduate at TUT with an Honours in Consumer Studies. I am currently enrolled for a Master's in Education. Nothing can be achieved in life if we do not have faith in ourselves. Education plays a vital role in cultivating self-confidence within us to become independent, communicate efficiently with others and overcome various difficulties that impede us from reaching our goals.

Over the course of my studies, I have developed a strong passion to provide high quality education for learners and to teach in innovative ways. My goal in my teaching journey continues to be that I will have the ability and drive to provide students with opportunities to discover and further develop

their critical and creative capabilities, which will enhance their livelihood, as well as that of their families and their community. This has awakened my "calling" or the role I play in shaping young people's attitudes towards lifelong learning.

My learners at the Glen High School are everything to me. As HOD: Consumer Studies and Technology, I dedicate my time and energy to make sure each individual learner reaches their true potential. I always encourage critical thinking and problem-solving skills in class, therefore my lessons are learner-centred and not teacher-centred. I always advocate that teachers must give learners an opportunity to learn and apply entrepreneurial skills. This, in-turn, will assist learners to reach their educational goals by providing ongoing support and guidance. It is not only about what is in the textbook, instead we go beyond that, keeping abreast of current consumer issues, developments in food and nutrition and modification of products to suit consumer needs, marketing, interior design and fashion.

In addition to classroom teaching, I believe in sharing good practice with colleagues, leading professional development workshops for teachers across South Africa, and

conducting research into teaching and learning, more specifically in Consumer Studies. I am the founder of an annual Consumer Studies Teachers' Conference endorsed by the Department of Education. By reflecting on teaching and collecting evidence of what happens in the classroom, teachers can examine, challenge and improve how they teach. The teaching-research nexus can be influential in informing how a teacher makes a difference in class. This project is very close to my heart. It supports many teachers to become active and reflective practitioners.

I have had great mentors for different things - male and female, white and black - throughout my career. I also learned very early on that mentorship isn't a one-way relationship. The crucial things is to choose a mentor who has similar values to yours and who has really done well in and will add value to the particular area you want to focus on. One of my first mentors, the late Moses Mabothe, taught me an immense amount about politics and administration. He taught me how to position myself for leadership and effective political participation dominated discussions, especially on issues that concern women. Looking back, I see how much his influences have shaped me to be the woman that I am today.

My religion and spiritual life are important parts of my existence. I am an active member of the Methodist Church. Through church and together with other women of prayer, we constantly reach out to destitute communities. We adopted an orphanage named Tshwane Home of Hope and recently visited women in prison. It is in such situations where one realises how much the world needs a helping hand. I have vowed to play my part in making this world a better place.

My passion for cooking led to the registration of my company Mosete Catering and Events Management. Together with my team, we do events management and the coordination of all event aspects, as well as catering for all types of functions and providing food of the highest quality. We organise and coordinate special functions such as banquets, dinners, launches, road shows, corporate functions and exhibitions.

With the help of God, I plan to have my own lodge or restaurant where people will be able to enjoy my food and hospitality on a broader scale. I will continue to go beyond to serve and improve the lives of others through community engagement projects.

