

In Soweto, physical activity enhancing learning and health

Sporting activity is not only essential for physical health but also mental well-being. Dr Claire Nicholson, founder of Move-it, Moving Matters® in South Africa and Dr. Thandi Khanyi, the program's partner at the Ministry of Education, explain the reasons behind it.

Physical education was dropped from the South African school curriculum in 1999. As a result, we have seen over the years the symptoms of a lack of physical activity amongst children and teenagers. The situation prompted the launch of the Move-it, Moving Matters® program with children aged 8 to 12 years. The programme applies a unique read-do-write methodology and uses physical activities to stimulate multiple intelligence. The impact of this initiative shows significant improvements in school attendance, concentration, comprehension and development in both language and mathematics.

Increased learning abilities

The programme is supported through partnerships with the Ministry of Education and private companies. Total is one of the key supporters and is able to make a difference in schools not only through the educational programme, Move-it, Moving Matters®, but also the Talent Advancing Programme called GASPTM, which is aiming at identifying promising athletes. Total is closely involved in the management of these initiatives. In addition to funding a large amount of equipment, Total has adopted a hands-on approach. Moreover, it was Total that suggested starting it in the disadvantaged area of Soweto. Today, 11,700 children coming from 42 schools of this area are part of the programme. We are hoping to extend Move-it, Moving Matters® to all schools in Soweto and then to other regions in the country and elsewhere in Africa. //

Total's other commitments to health

In Burkina Faso, Total has signed an agreement with the association African Solidarité in relation to combatting sexually transmitted infections. The partnership covers prevention, screening and treatment for truck drivers.

Since 1998, Total and the French Red Cross have been working together in the Republic of the Congo as partners to combat the AIDS virus. Their cooperation has led to the opening of two walk-in treatment centers

in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, which are now seen as benchmark centers in the treatment of the disease.

Move-It, Moving Matters® is a fine example of a successful public-private partnership."

Dr. Claire Nicholson, founder of Move-it, Moving Matters®



It's about giving children the chance of a better life, with a long-term vision."

Dr. Thandi Khanyi, partner of Move-it, Moving Matters® at the Ministry of Education

