

## Preference of *Phaseolus vulgaris* (Sugar Beans) Provided at Government Primary Schools: The Case of Lesedi Primary School

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### Abstract

The government of Botswana through the Ministry of Local Government (MLC) under the Department of Local Government Finance and Procurement Services (DLGFPS), implemented the School Feeding Programme which aims at providing meals to all children in government schools (Isler, 2012). On average, one meal per day is provided to approximately 316 749 children enrolled in government primary schools across the country (Statistics Botswana, 2016). Despite the important roles played by the programme, a study conducted by Moepeng, (2016) highlighted that school children are not satisfied with the quality of meals provided to them. However, the study did not further investigate on preference of food provided by government to primary school pupils. The current study therefore assessed the degree of preference of *Phaseolus vulgaris* beans provided at government primary schools specifically at Lesedi Primary School. Specifically, preference of *Phaseolus vulgaris* beans provided at the school was compared against preference of beans prepared from a modified recipe.

A sensory evaluation comprising of a total of 47 students ( $n = 47$ ); 21 males and 26 females who were students at Lesedi Primary School in Gaborone, Botswana was conducted. The University of Botswana's Office of Research Development Ethics Committee granted ethical approval, and only children who voluntarily accepted and whose parents signed a consent form were included. A seven-point hedonic facial scale was used. The data obtained was subjected to computation with analysis of descriptive statistics using SPSS Version 27 statistical software.

The results showed that the students preferred the sugar beans that were produced using the modified recipe (which included addition of vegetables and stock) compared to the ones produced using the standardised recipe provided by the Government. The sugar beans produced using the modified recipe rated better on colour, aroma, taste, and texture compared to the beans produced using the Government recipe.

The findings of the study may benefit the school feeding programme through informing the implementers on how to improve the production of sugar beans provided at primary schools. This may lead to provision of beans that are most preferred by the Primary school pupils which may decrease plate waste.