

Dr. Layani Makwinja is an Educational and Developmental Psychologist and Lecturer in the Department of Educational Foundations at the University of Botswana. She holds a PhD in Counselling and Psychology in Education with specialization in Human Development and Educational Psychology. Her expertise includes psychotherapy, trauma therapy, psychometric assessment, conflict management, and motivational interventions. Dr. Makwinja's research focuses on child and adolescent development, psychological well-being, student motivation, parent–child relationships, and the ecological influences shaping learning and development. She is particularly interested in childhood mental health, women's mental health, gender-based violence, and identity development. Within the RECLAIM Project, Dr. Makwinja leads the design and implementation of gamified microlearning and motivation-driven pedagogical interventions aimed at strengthening teacher training, learner engagement, and innovative evidence-based educational practices that support resilience and improved learning outcomes.

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