



**POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**

**EXAMINER'S REPORT**

**EXAMPLE 1: Master's Dissertation (Kapp 2003)**

**1. Adequate delimitation and conceptualizing of the field and subject of research**

The candidate succeeded in delimiting the field and subject of research to the learning needs of a specific group of tutors at the...

The clarification of concepts was adequately done since it enabled the reader to understand the framework and importance of tutor development in a flexible learning system. A conceptual framework of the researcher's views on certain concepts, based on literature research, was transformed into models, which enhanced the scientific quality of this study. The actuality of the topic is both relevant and of value to current tutor systems in South Africa. Since very little has been researched on this specific topic, it makes a relevant study whose recommendations are of importance to tutor practice and theory.

The introduction is clear and to the point. An outflow of the introduction is a clear indication of the problem at hand, as well as the motivating factors leading to that which is being researched. Clear objectives have been formulated from the research problem, which are realized in the subsequent chapters.

The main aim and subsequent objectives of the research are formulated in operational terms and succeed in that which they set out to do, namely, investigating and analysing the learning needs of tutors in the Subject Group. The research is applicable for resolving the problem at hand.

**2. Adequate command of the relevant research method**

The researcher did qualitative research in an ethnographic paradigm, which included interviews and participative observation. The researcher followed a qualitative approach with a combination of exploratory, descriptive strategies as well as a comparative review. The use of this research method lends itself suitably to resolve the problem at hand. The researcher is conversant with, and shows an adequate command of the practicalities of this scientific research method.

**3. Familiarity of the relevant literature**

The study reflects a good use of relevant primary and secondary sources. A good balance is maintained between the various sources. These are examined and assessed in the light of the research problem at hand, and the candidate shows a clear understanding of and familiarity with the relevant literature.

4. **Ability to interpret research results**

The candidate shows a clear ability to interpret the research results. Both the findings and the recommendations reflect accountability and concur with the aim formulated. The recommendations are viable and should be seriously considered by the relevant institution when intending to improve their tutor system and related sub-systems. The summary and conclusions are a meaningful expression of the spirit of the study in total and concur with the aim of the study.

5. **Clear, systematic and logical presentation of the material**

This research is based on a good theoretical foundation, obeys the rules of logic, is critically accountable and is organized systematically. The length and scope of this research suffices the need to come to general conclusions and recommendations. The chapters reflect both topic relevance and adequate knowledge of the research terrain, thus forming a concise whole with regard to the topic and subsequent objectives. The research reflects well-founded suppositions indicative of the researcher's individual viewpoints.

6. **Acceptable linguistic and stylistic presentation**

The researcher's style and language are of a very high standard and the presentation is grammatically sound. The dissertation is technically correct regarding the title page, preface, table of contents and legibility. Quotations, illustrations and tables are treated correctly throughout. Much effort has been made by the researcher to present models, findings, etc. in colour, which made the interpretation thereof easy. Minor mistakes are indicated in an Addendum.

7. **The contribution made by the dissertation to the knowledge in its field**

The candidate has shown that he/she can work and conduct research in a scientific way, also showing original and critical thought. The research concentrated on the learning needs of tutors, and the findings and recommendations of this research could make a contribution to the relevant institution at large. Extension of knowledge in the form of new significance for improvement in practice has therefore been established.

8. **General**

In this research work of outstanding quality has been produced.