

Running heading: Comprehensive Exam

**The Impacts of Quality Teaching and How it Increases Student
Learning at the Public Universities in South Sudan**

BY

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DEL700: Comprehensive Exam

**This Comprehensive Exam is presented as a partial requirement and fulfillment of
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Abstract

This Comprehensive Exam is the first part of the DEL 700: Dissertation Continuation toward the fulfillment of my Ph.D in Higher Educational Leadership. In this first part, I will discuss three sections including: 1) Dissertation Prospectus; 2) review two journal articles; and 3) my reflection. In every section, I will include my analysis of the study.

Section One: Dissertation Prospectus

This section briefly states the introduction of my Dissertation Prospectus including: 1) my topic of study; 2) purpose of the study; 3) selected participants for the study; 3) review sources of data collection method; and 4) formulate a research question with two corresponding hypotheses.

Topic of Study

My topic of study is to discuss “*The Impacts of Quality Teaching and How it Increases Student Learning at the Public Universities in South Sudan.*”

Purpose of the Study

The purpose is to assess 5 public universities’ quality teaching and practices toward implementing quality education in South Sudan. This research is intended to explore the current issues affecting the implementation and performances of quality teaching practices at the 5 public universities within the country. It will also review available quality teaching strategies and practices in higher education that would contribute to sustainable and continuous quality improvement.

Selected Participants for the Study

First, the target population in this study will be the students taking classes from April to August of 2014. Also part of the target population will be students who have been graduated in both masters or bachelors and those who withdrew, or have been terminated from the program not longer than March 2012. Second, also included are public universities’ Vice Chancellors, academic faculties, instructors, parents from neighboring communities around the university and the Minister of higher education in South Sudan.

The multi-stage sampling technique will be employed to select representative academic faculties, teachers, students, parents from neighboring communities and the Minister of higher education in South Sudan. First, the eight faculties from each university are identified including 1) Humanities and Social Sciences; 2) Natural Science and Technology; 3) Business and Economics; 4) Mathematics; 5) English; 6) Law; 7) Education and Medicines. Once the departments are identified, twenty students and two instructors from each university department will be selected using the systematic random sampling techniques.

The purposive sampling technique will be used to select 5 parents from a neighboring community around each university. These parents will be selected based on their long time experience serving in the Parental University Board. All together this research study will be employed by interviewing 249 including 200 students, 10 instructors, 5 vice chancellors, 8 department heads, 25 parents and the Minister of higher education.

A total of 200 students (40 from the university two department faculties) will be selected using the stratified random sampling technique. The criteria to select students to participate in the study will be inclusive: 1) students enrolled in the 2014 academic year from April to August 2014 at the 5 public universities will be selected; 2) must be second year students (sophomore); and 3) must carry a satisfactory grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above.

Sources of Data Collection Method

In this study, the survey approach and document are employed to generate data. The survey method is employed with the intention to collect data concerning the characteristics, attitudes, and perceptions of a wide range of subjects towards the practices of quality teaching. The survey data collection method involves both analysis self-administered questionnaires and

interviews. The documentary analysis will be employed to provide a contextual understand of policy and learning environment that underlie quality teaching at the universities.

As this research incorporated the use of mixed method including both Qualitative and Quantitative study, the *pilot study* will be employed to help ensure the accuracy of reliability and validity to obtain adequate sample size for data collection. During the study, I will assure trustfulness in the interviews as well as ensuring the integrity of the process of data collection. By doing so, I will include validity and reliability as a way to achieve the goals and objectives for the study. The author Creswell (2013) summarized that Validity is the extent to which our measure reflects what we think or want them to be measuring whereas reliability is the extent to which the same research technique applied again to the same object/subject will give you the same result. In order to ensure this approach, I will incorporate validity as a way to measure and perform the test, whereas reliability acts to determine the stability, steady and consistency of the measurements.

Formulated Research question with Two Corresponding Hypotheses

1. Does classroom setting influences students' learning outcome at the universities?

- **H_{1null}**: There is no statistical significant classroom setting that influences students' learning outcome at the universities.
- **H_{1alt}**: There is a statistical significant classroom setting strategy that influences students' learning outcome at the universities.

Section Two: Two Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

The section two will review and discuss my two selected peer-reviewed journal articles that are closely related to my field of research in higher education. In this section, I will discuss and explain the purpose of the study, types of research, type of data collected, how the data was

analyzed, conclusions reached by the researchers and my analysis of the study process. Below is the discussion of my two selected peer-reviewed journals addressing the aspects of current research in higher education:

1st Article: Initiatives to improve the quality of teaching and learning: Review of Recent Literature

The purpose of this research article is to review recent literature relating to quality of teaching and learning processes within schools in low income countries illustrated with analyses of specific initiatives to improve quality. It focuses on three key areas of meeting diverse learners' needs, trends in curriculum change and enabling teachers including the provision of teaching and learning resources.

The researchers did not employ any method of research study because the focus was to review previous researched literature concerning countries that have low income in providing quality education in Africa including South Africa and Zanzibar. This research presented a brief analysis of initiative that quality education is expected to meet the needs of diverse learners that have historically been excluded from or underachieved in schools, learners living in remote areas, children with special education needs and those speaking minority languages. The authors, "Argue that the three-way relationship between learner, teacher and materials lies at the heart of the education quality and that all examples of successful initiatives are to meet learners' needs in their particular environments and related training for teachers (Barrett, Ali, Clegg, Hinostroza, Lowe, Nickel, Novelli, Oduro, Pillay, Tikly and Yu, 2008)." I agree with their view because the goal of quality teaching policy is to improve the quality of learning experience for students.

2nd Article: The Quality of Higher Education in Developing Countries Needs Professional Support

The aim of this study is to explain the learners' purpose of acquiring university education, the basis for selection of course of study, the assessment of the quality of higher education, the challenges faced by learners, as well as suggestions for improvement. The author state, "In developing countries, higher education, and particularly university education is recognized as a key force for modernization and development.

The research was based on a case study of one public university in Uganda. Data was collected through focus group discussions with students in the various faculties, In-depth interviews with officials in the Uganda National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), lecturers, counselors, management and administrative staff and document analyses of conference papers and journal articles.

The outcome of the research shows that that the quality of higher education in developing countries is influenced by socio-cultural, academic, economic, policy, political and administrative factors all of which are inextricably interwoven. The author states, "The appropriate policies and homebred professionals both academic and administrative are necessary for improving the quality of higher education in developing countries (Bunoti, 2012)." The author concludes that the quality of higher education in developing countries is influenced by complex factors that have their roots in commercialization, general funding, and human population growth.

My Analysis of the Articles

After reading through the articles, I believe that there is a need for research to improve quality education and policy making in developing countries like South Sudan, Uganda, Zanzibar

and others in Africa. These articles caught my attention because they are focusing on quality education improvements that require higher education institution to better train teachers to impact students' learning outcome. The South Sudan is the newest country to receive its independence in July of 2010, it has been at war for four decade and everything has to be rebuilt from scratch. The provision of providing higher education is low.

The country's government and Nonprofit Agencies (United States Agency for International Development USAID) are collaboratively in the process of introducing and implementing strategic higher education transformations aimed at providing equal opportunity in education for all the people of South Sudan. The purpose is to find ways university leaders and stakeholders would alter their thinking about many aspects of campus offerings, facilities, operations, services and academic programs.

Dissertation Reading Source

The reading source material is significantly important to be used in this study because it will help provide direct evidence concerning the topic under investigation. In my case, I will use the reading source to support the argument that imposing quality teaching at the public universities in South Sudan which is vital to the success of each student attending the school. These ready source materials will provide valuable information in order to successfully complete my research.

I have enjoyed reading these articles 1) The *Three's of Obama's Race to the Top (RTT) Program: Reform, Reward and Resistance* was signed into law by President Obama to implement and reward states that have demonstrated success in raising students' achievements and having the best plans to accelerate learning opportunities for children at all levels; and *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* was signed into Law by President George W. Bush to establish a

timeline that states should follow so they check -points for academic progress. The purpose is to help sustain the states' focus on education improvement and provide financial support to implement significant changes in educational system. I believe the United States educational reforms perspective is to challenge schools to share effective strategies on how they are preparing their students to win the future and achieve the goal of having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

Section Three: My Reflection

First and foremost, I am very content to have come to the United States, a country where one could achieve so much to support his or her family. I have lived in the United for 13 years. I am married and have 5 children. I have been going school and work fulltime since I arrived in the United States to support my family. I acknowledge there is a need to be educated. In this 21st century, the need of education has been rapidly growing. I am very fortunate to achieve my higher education in the United States.

In the case of my fellow South Sudanese, I feel they need the same education that I have acquired from the United States. I anticipate that my research dissertation will help investigate and examine the situation of the current higher education practices as well as to determine the prospect of implementing quality teaching and maintain it will increase student learning at the public universities. It will provide sustainable quality teaching improvements by making sure that people of South Sudan are engaging and pursuing quality learning at the universities.

Conclusion

In summary after reviewing these peer-reviewed journal articles, I realize that higher education institutions in every country need to ensure that the education they offer meets the expectations of students and requirements of employers, both today and for the future. The

authors state, “University education, and the mode of learning whilst at university, will need to prepare students for entry to such an environment and equip them with appropriate skills, knowledge, values and attributes to thrive in it (Henard, & Roseveare, 2012).” I believe it is important that educational institutions take responsibility to continuously improve and strengthened themselves to become the center of providing academic excellence.

It is important that effective educational leaders communicate how to achieve their visions and how people will benefit; for example listening to Martin Luther King, Jr’s famous speech “I have a Dream.” Dr. King’s vision was to liberate and ensure that all people are treated equally regardless of their gender, nationality, color and age. I believe educational leaders and teachers can put their visions to work by reshaping their visions to make sure their job performance demonstrates success; evaluating what they do best by getting feedback from the people they serve; representing their people and more for effective work performance; and building strong vision toward positive influence to achieve outstanding performance.

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