

**THE PERCEPTIONS OF PRINCIPALS AND EDUCATORS OF
PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN IMPLEMENTING
OUTCOMES BASED EDUCATION (OBE) IN NDENGEZI WARD,
PINETOWN DISTRICT, KWAZULU-NATAL**

by

Adelaide Buyisiwe Nkuku

B.Bibl. Hons., PTDip

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Information Studies (Coursework 66.6%) in the Information Studies Programme, School of Sociology and Social Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Development and Social Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg

2008

DECLARATION

I, Adelaide Buyisiwe Nkuku declare that

- (i) The research reported in this dissertation, except where otherwise indicated, is my original work.
- (ii) This dissertation/thesis has not been submitted for any degree or examination at any other university
- (iii) This dissertation/thesis does not contain other persons' data, pictures, graphs or other information, unless specifically acknowledged as being sourced from other persons.
- (iv) This dissertation/thesis does not contain other persons' writing, unless specifically acknowledged as being sourced from other researchers. Where other written sources have been quoted, then:
 - (a) their words have been re-written but the general information attributed to them has been referenced;
 - (b) where their exact words have been used, their writing has been placed inside quotations marks, and referenced.
- (v) Where I have reproduced a publication of which I am an author, co-author or editor, I have indicated in detail which part of the publication was actually written by myself alone and have fully referenced such publications
- (vi) This dissertation/thesis does not contain text, graphics or tables copied and pasted from the Internet, unless specifically acknowledged, and the source being detailed in the dissertation and in the References sections.

Signed: Date:

Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my mother, Charlotte Khethiwe Nkuku.

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the perceptions of principals and educators of primary school libraries in implementing Outcomes Based Education (OBE) and imparting and enhancing information skills in the Ndengezi Ward, Pinetown District, KwaZulu-Natal, with a view to proposing a set of recommendations based on the findings that would contribute to more effective use of the school library.

The study population consisted of 15 principals and 385 educators. The survey instrument used to elicit data was a self-administered questionnaire that was distributed to a sample population of 15 principals and 105 educators. The questionnaire sought to establish if principals and educators are aware of the role of the school library in the successful implementation of OBE. A total of 104 responded, 10 principals and 94 educators, indicating a response rate of 89.5%. The results were analyzed in terms of frequency responses and are graphically displayed in the form of tables.

The study findings show that the educators used both school libraries and other libraries for their curricula needs. Other libraries were more heavily used than school libraries. In the Ndengezi Ward there are no functional and well-resourced school libraries and this has contributed to their underutilization. Principals experience problems in development and establishment of school libraries. There is a need for training educators in library and information skills and creating awareness amongst principals about the role of the school library in implementing OBE. Recommendations for action and further research, based on the conclusions of the study, are made.

Acknowledgements

First, I would like to thank God for giving me strength, wisdom and understanding, without which I would not have completed this study.

My supervisors, Athol Leach and Ruth Hoskins, for the patience, words of encouragement, advice and constant support they gave me during the study.

My family for their love and moral support throughout the duration of the study.

Academic staff of the Information Studies Programme, University of KwaZulu-Natal, for their contributions to the proposal, questionnaire, interview schedule and writing stages.

Principals and educators in Ndengezi Ward, Pinetown District, who responded to the questionnaire.

My colleagues and friends, for encouragement and assistance.

Barbara Gentil, for proofreading the thesis.

Table of contents

Abstract	i
Acknowledgements	ii
List of tables	ix
List of acronyms and abbreviations	x
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Description of the problem	4
1.3 The purpose of the study	6
1.4 Research questions	7
1.5 Justification for the study	7
1.6 The scope of the study	8
1.7 Definitions of terms used in the study	9
1.8 Theories upon which the study was constructed	11
1.9 Outline of the remainder of the thesis	14
1.10 Summary of the chapter	14
Chapter 2: Literature review	15
2.1 Introduction	15
2.2 Overview of the area under study	16
2.3 Education in South Africa	17
2.4 Outcomes Based Education (OBE) and the role of the school library	18
2.5 Learner/Teacher Support Material (LTSM)	21
2.6 School libraries in South Africa (S.A)	22
2.6.1 Non-use of school library	23
2.6.2 Funding of school libraries	24
2.7 The National School Library Policy	25
2.8 The KwaZulu-Natal School Library Policy	27
2.9 Responsibilities of role players in the development of school libraries	29
2.9.1 The National Department of Education	29

2.9.2 The Provincial Department of Education	29
2.9.2.1 Education Library Information and Technology Services (ELITS)	30
2.9.3 Responsibilities of principals and the school governing body	31
2.9.4 The role of the principal in developing school libraries	32
2.9.5 The role of the teacher-librarian	34
2.9.6 The role of educators	35
2.9.6.1 Training of educators in library and information skills	37
2.9.6.2 Teaching of information skills	39
2.10 Summary of the chapter	40
Chapter3: Research methodology	41
3.1 Introduction	41
3.2 Choice of method	41
3.3 Population and sample	42
3.4 Data collection technique	43
3.4.1 Self-administered questionnaire	43
3.4.2 Forms of questions	44
3.4.2.1 Closed questions	44
3.4.2.2 Open questions	44
3.4.3 Questionnaires used in the study	45
3.5 Pre-testing of instrument	45
3.6 Administering the questionnaire	46
3.7 Data analysis	47
3.8 Evaluation of the method used	47
3.9 Summary of the chapter	48
Chapter 4: Results of the survey	49
4.1 Introduction	49
4.2 Research questions	49
4.3 Response rate	49

4.4 Questionnaire results of educators	50
4.4.1 Background information on educators	50
4.4.1.1 Position at work	50
4.4.1.2 Learning areas taught	51
4.4.1.3 Grades taught	52
4.4.1.4 Educators' years of teaching	53
4.4.1.5 Number of years teaching at a primary school	54
4.4.2 Information relating to the school library	55
4.4.2.1 Type of library	55
4.4.2.2 Library usage by educators	56
4.4.2.3 Frequency of use of the school library by educators	57
4.4.2.4 Educators' purpose for using library	58
4.4.2.5 Extent to which the school library met curricula needs	59
4.4.2.6 The extent to which educators participate in material selection	59
4.4.2.7 Type of materials selected by educators	60
4.4.2.8 Usage of other libraries to meet curricula needs	60
4.4.2.9 Library period	61
4.4.2.10 Assignments and projects given to learners	62
4.4.2.11 Guidance given to learners to find information for assignments and projects	62
4.4.2.12 Educators encourage learners to use the library	62
4.4.2.13 Educators' opinion of the role of the school library in relation to OBE	63
4.4.2.14 Suggestions to improve the role of the school library in the school	64
4.5 Questionnaire results for the principals	65
4.5.1 Opinion on the role of the school library	65
4.5.2 Type of library	66
4.5.3 School library and curriculum	67
4.5.4 Management of the school library	68
4.5.5 Periods allocated for teaching and for library management	68

4.5.6 Library period in a grade time-table	69
4.5.7 School fund allocation towards school library development	69
4.5.8 Allocation for library development from Norms and Standards budget	69
4.5.9 Library related workshops	69
4.5.10 ELITS advisor visits to the school library	70
4.5.11 Frequency of school library visits by ELITS advisor	70
4.5.12 Library used for other purposes	70
4.5.13 School library committee	70
4.5.14 Principal's involvement in management of the school library	71
4.5.15 Opinion on whether school library improvements are needed	71
4.6 Summary of the chapter	72
Chapter 5: Discussion of the results	73
5.1 Introduction	73
5.2 Response rate	73
5.3 Questionnaire results of educators	73
5.3.1 Background information on educators	73
5.3.1.1 Position at work	74
5.3.1.2 Learning areas taught	74
5.3.1.3 Grades taught	74
5.3.1.4 Number of years teaching a specific grade	75
5.3.1.5 Number of years teaching at a primary school	75
5.3.2 Information relating to a school library	75
5.3.2.1 Type of library	75
5.3.2.2 Library usage by educators	76
5.3.2.3 Frequency of use of the school library by educators	77
5.3.2.4 Educators' purpose for using library	77
5.3.2.5 Extent to which the school library meets curricula needs	78
5.3.2.6 Extent to which educators participate in material selection	78
5.3.2.7 Type of materials selected by educators	79

5.3.2.8 Usage of other libraries to meet curricula needs	79
5.3.2.9 Usage of library period	80
5.3.2.10 Assignments and projects given to learners	80
5.3.2.11 Guidance given to learners for information on assignments and projects	81
5.3.2.12 How do educators encourage learners to use the library?	82
5.3.2.13 Educators' opinion on the role of the school library in relation to OBE	82
5.3.2.14 Suggestions that will improve the role of the library in the school	83
5.4 Questionnaire results for the principals	84
5.4.1 Opinion on the role of the school library	84
5.4.2 School library and the curriculum	84
5.4.3 Management of the school library	85
5.4.4 Period allocations for teaching and for library management	85
5.4.5 Library period in a grade time-table	86
5.4.6 School fund allocation towards school library development	87
5.4.7 Allocation for library development from Norms and Standards budget	87
5.4.8 Attendance at library related workshops	88
5.4.9 ELITS advisor visits to schools	88
5.4.10 Library used for other purposes	89
5.4.11 School library committees	89
5.4.12 Principals' involvement in management of the school library	90
5.4.13 Opinion on whether school library improvements are needed	91
5.5 Summary of the chapter	91
Chapter 6: Conclusions and recommendations	92
6.1 Introduction	92
6.2 Revisiting the purpose and research questions of the study	92
6.3 Summary overview of the study	93

6.4 Conclusions	93
6.5 Recommendations	95
6.6 Further research	97
List of works cited	98
Appendices	106
Appendix 1: Educators' questionnaire on the perceptions of principals and educators of primary school libraries in implementing Outcomes Based Education (OBE) in the Ndengezi Ward, Pinetown District, KwaZulu-Natal.	107
Appendix 2: Principals' questionnaire on the perceptions of principals and educators of primary school libraries in implementing Outcomes Based Education (OBE) in the Ndengezi Ward, Pinetown District, KwaZulu-Natal.	112
Appendix 3: Covering letters	116

List of tables

1. Position at work	51
2. Learning areas taught	52
3. Grades taught	53
4. Number of years teaching a specific grade	54
5. Number of years teaching at a primary school	55
6. Type of library	56
7. Frequency of use of library by educators	58
8. Educators' purpose for using the library	58
9. Usage of other libraries	61
10. Usage of library period	61
11. How do educators encourage learners to use the library	63
12. Type of library	67
13. The management of the school library	68

List of acronyms and abbreviations

ANC	African National Congress
C2005	Curriculum 2005
DoE	Department of Education
ELITS	Education Library Information and Technology Services
ICT	Information Communication and Technology
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LIS	Library and Information Science
LTSM	Learner Teacher Support Material
NSLP	National School Library Policy
SGB	School Governing Body
OBE	Outcomes Based Education
SA	South Africa
SASA	South African Schools Act