

**A STUDY OF THE DYNAMICS OF ACADEMIC STAFF
DEVELOPMENT AT THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA IN AN ERA OF EDUCATIONAL
TRANSFORMATION**

By

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DECLARATION

I declare that the dissertation, which I hereby submit for the degree Philosophiae Doctor at the University of Pretoria, is my own work and has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at any other institution.

.....*S. Hassan*.....

S. Hassan

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DEDICATION

For Johara

ABSTRACT

A STUDY OF THE DYNAMICS OF ACADEMIC STAFF DEVELOPMENT AT THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IN AN ERA OF EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

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Recent global occurrences pertaining to the knowledge explosion, globalization and advances in technology are in one way or another affecting the functions of many higher education institutions, nationally and internationally. While there is a major drive to reshape the higher education landscape, few institutions are adequately geared towards making an optimum contribution to this type of change. The vision of practice that underlies the educational transformation agenda requires that most educators rethink their own practice, construct new classroom roles and expectations about learners and teach in ways they have, hitherto, never taught before.

Unsurprisingly, most academics are under-prepared to cope with the demands of educational transformation and therefore, academic staff development in the andragogical applications of new technology, innovation and change, is fundamental to the process of educational transformation.

Against this background, this dissertation examines the multifaceted elements of educational transformation in higher education and their implications for tertiary educators, juxtaposed with the dynamics and pertinence of academic staff development. The epistemological perspectives that were applied were two-fold; comprising interpretative (qualitative) and positivist (quantitative) approaches. The

use of these empirical research methods helped explore the role and involvement of management, as well as the needs and perceptions of academic staff regarding academic staff development, contextualised at the Medical University of Southern Africa, within a climate of educational transformation. This was undertaken to assess the rationale for the non-responsiveness of management and academics towards the imperatives of educational transformation and the nexus with academic staff development.

The study demonstrated that a cacophony of constraints, mostly related to the fragmented nature of existing staff development initiatives, including a lack of finance and staff shortages, are restricting the meaningful implementation of educational transformation arrangements. Hence, altering the modus operandi of the activities of higher education institutions is not a task that can be easily accomplished. The demands of educational transformation relate not only to significant cultural shifts, but are labour-intensive and resource dependent as well.



KEY WORDS

Educational transformation

Academic staff development

Curricula innovations

Information and communication technologies

Interpretative

Positivist

Knowledge society

Quality assurance

Equity and redress

Scholarship

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADC:	Academic Development Committee
APC:	Academic Planning Committee
AQF:	Australian Qualifications Framework
BEd:	Bachelor of Education
CADS:	Centre for Academic Development Services
CBAM:	Concerns-based Adoption Model
CBE:	Computer-based Education
CD:	Compact disc
CDC:	Curriculum Development Committee
CHE:	Council of Higher Education
DVC:	Deputy Vice-Chancellor
EHE:	Enterprise in Higher Education
ETQA:	Education and Training Quality Assurers
FETC:	Further Education and Training Certificate
FOTIM:	Foundation of Tertiary Institutions in the Northern Metropolis
HBU:	Historically Black University
HDE:	Higher Diploma in Education
HDI:	Historically Disadvantaged Institution
HEI:	Higher Education Institution
HEQC:	Higher Education Quality Committee
HOD:	Head of Department
HPCSA:	Health Professional Council of South Africa
html:	Hypertext markup language
Fe:	Expected frequency

ICT:	Information and Communications Technology
IPA:	Individualised Process Assessment
MBChB:	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
MDent:	Master of Dentistry
MEd:	Master of Education
MEDUNSA:	Medical University of Southern Africa
MEQ:	Modified Essay Question
MMed:	Master of Medicine
MPhil:	Philosophiae Master
MRC:	Medical Research Council
NAP:	New Academic Policy
NCHE:	National Commission of Higher Education
NCIHE:	National Commission of Inquiry in Higher Education
NRF:	National Research Foundation
NSBs:	National Standards Bodies
NSPH:	National School of Public Health
NQF:	National Qualifications Framework
NZQA:	New Zealand Qualifications Authority
OBE:	Outcomes-based Education
OSCE:	Objectively Structured Clinical Examination
OSPE:	Objectively Structured Practical Examination
PGCHE:	Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education
PBL:	Problem-based Learning
QA:	Quality Assurance
QAA:	Quality Assurance Agency
QAANZ:	Quality Assurance Authority of New Zealand
QAC:	Quality Assurance Committee
QPC:	Quality Promotion Committee
QVB:	Quality Validation Body



ROM:	Read only memory
RPTIM:	Readiness, Planning, Training, Implementation, Maintenance
SAARDHE:	South African Association for Research and Development in Higher Education
SAQA:	South African Qualifications Authority
SAS:	Statistical Analysis System
SAUVCA:	South African Universities Vice-Chancellor's Association
SGBs:	Standards Generating Bodies
UED:	University Education Diploma
UK:	United Kingdom
UNIN:	University of the North
WPET:	White Paper on Education and Training
www:	World-wide web