

Kelleher, Denis, 2014, *Teachers' Perceptions of ICT and its Role as a Teaching Aid in Irish Post-Primary Schools.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

Objectives

The objective of this study was to examine the perceptions of teachers in post-primary schools regarding the use of ICT as a teaching aid. The study was conducted to investigate teachers' opinions of how powerful ICT can be as a teaching aid. The study also aimed to raise awareness of the need for continuing professional development with regard to ICT and its uses in Irish post-primary schools.

Methodology

The study uses the quantitative and qualitative approaches for data collection. From the qualitative perspective, the opinion of teachers in two post-primary schools were gathered in questionnaires. This information was tabulated in charts and tables, assessed and discussed. For triangulation, qualitative data was gathered through interviews which were held with Principals of two different schools.

Structure of the Study

Chapter One is a brief introduction to the dissertation and outlines its focus, aims and structure. It also outlines the research methodologies to be used.

Chapter Two investigates and reviews the literature that deals specifically with the topic of ICT use in post-primary schools. The main research focus is on the official publications from the DES and other authors who have written on the subject. Chapter Three details the research methodology used throughout the study. The advantages and disadvantages of the research instrument used are also discussed.

Chapter Four presents the findings of the field research conducted and analyses the findings. Procedures used include the recording, storing and collating of the data gathered. Results are summarised and assessed, and assumptions drawn using the data collected. In the Fifth and final chapter, the conclusions from the research are stated. Comparisons are drawn to previous studies and hypotheses. Recommendations are made based on the findings of the data collected. Areas are then identified for further research.

Conclusions

The dissertation summarises that teachers have a general perception that ICT is an extremely powerful teaching and learning tool. However some teachers do not utilise it as much as possible due to lack of training, etc. There is need for

structures to be put in place to ensure all teachers become fully competent in the use of ICT. This also ensures that top class, state of the art, fully functional teaching aids are not going to waste in schools.