

Dollard-Hanrahan, Maria, 2003, *Gender Differences in Attitude, Perceptions and Academic Achievement of Second-Level Business Studies Students.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

The fundamental purpose of this study is to endeavour to investigate the existence of gender differences in the attitudes, perceptions and academic achievement of a group of second-level Business Studies students in Ireland. The study is important to the author at this time, as she is a Business Studies teacher in a co-educational second-level school. The study involves a survey of the attitudes and perceptions of a group of 55 Third Year Business Studies students in her school. The study also involves an examination of the Junior Certificate Business Studies results nationally in an attempt to establish possible broad trends and patterns in relation to gender differences in the academic achievement of Business Studies students.

The dissertation begins with a background of the study and profiles the school where the study takes place. Some available literature of national and international interest on the issue of gender in general is then examined and discussed. The study also examines available literature in relation to gender differences in Junior Certificate Business Studies. Various research approaches and methodologies are discussed as part of the study. The reasons for choosing a survey as the research tool in this study are also outlined.

The study also presents an analysis of the results of the survey. The study found that gender differences in students' perceptions of, and attitudes towards, Business Studies to some degree explain gender differences in the academic performance of students in the subject. Female students generally appeared more positive towards Business Studies and ultimately performed academically better than their male counterparts in the subject.

Some conclusions and implications of the study are discussed, and recommendations for further research are suggested.