

**Kearney, John, 2002, *School Development Planning: An Analysis on the Perceptions and Experiences of Teaching Staff Steering Committees on the Initialisation and Familiarisation Stages of the Planning Initiative.***

## **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

The School Development Planning Initiative has been introduced in Ireland with a view to accommodating recent educational reform that has placed a legislative requirement upon all schools to produce a formal school plan. As a result, the purpose of this study has been to investigate the perceptions and experiences of teaching staff steering committees on the initial stages of school development planning.

The study began with a literature review of the historical introduction of development planning, the operational framework of the planning process and the relationship between school development planning and the research literature concerned with school effectiveness, school improvement and staff professional enhancement.

Data were collected from ninety six (96) teaching staff members by means of a forty four (44) item questionnaire with subsequent descriptive analyses containing frequencies, means, variances and two-way ANOVA testing. Included among the findings are the high levels of operational integration with the educational features of school effectiveness, school improvement and staff professional enhancement. Other findings indicate the pertinent requirement of time, training and in- service for teaching staffs in order to advance the institutionalisation stages of the planning process. The ANOVA testing also indicates the prominent role that individual schooling centres display in instigating efficient and effective arrangements for school development planning. #

Finally, in relation to the Planning Initiative, the study findings enable a number of tentative conclusions to be reached and some proposals on the future advancement of the planning process to be recommended.