

**McNamara, Anne, 1995, *Education and Disadvantage: An examination of the Post-Primary Experience in the Republic of Ireland***

**ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

Schools in the Republic of Ireland have a long tradition of investment in the education of the young. As a teacher with experience both at primary and post—primary level, I recognise and appreciate the monumental work being done within the school system. The last twenty years have witnessed the changing pattern of student participation, and the willingness of teachers to adapt to accommodate increasing numbers. There is no doubt that effective work is being done in the context of the school academic programme.

The issue raised in this dissertation is the incomplete nature of the present second—level educational system for those students who are “disadvantaged”. Equality of educational access in the Republic of Ireland has not equalised educational achievement within the context of family, school and society.