

Mulcahy, HM, 2006, *The Appropriateness of Continuing Professional Development of primary Teachers: Perceptions of some Primary Teachers in Cork City.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

Teachers are living and working in a period of great educational change at present, both in Ireland and abroad. Continuing professional development of teachers has the potential to help them cope with and confront this change, particularly if its appropriateness is maximized to as great a degree as possible, and if it is enabled to fulfil teachers' needs.

If continuing professional development is appropriate, and if teachers' needs are substantially met, then the consequent, improved teaching strategies and enhanced subject knowledge that should result offer a greater likelihood of improved learning outcomes for students. Various writers have articulated the virtues of continuing professional development for teachers. What is less clear is how appropriate much of this professional development has been, or whether it has always addressed and met teachers' needs in the past.

The principal aim of this research study is to establish the perceptions of some primary school teachers with regard to the appropriateness of continuing professional development of teachers, and to compare and contrast these perceptions with the views of several of the established authors writing in this area. The perceptions of the teachers are presented in relation to teachers' needs and professional development, and their views as to the future shape of continuing professional development are outlined.

A review of the literature relating to continuing professional development is presented, in addition to an empirical study. The principal findings emanating from the study are threefold. The teachers who were surveyed are of the opinion that continuing professional development has been, for the most part, appropriate. They perceive, however, that their needs are not being fully met by professional development. There is also a perception that continuing professional development could be further improved in future.

The study allows for conclusions and recommendations to be proposed by the writer in the final chapter.