

**O'Sullivan, Padraig, 2000, *School Development Planning: Perceptions of How this Initiative will Affect and Influence Second Level Education in this Country.***

## **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

This study explores the perceptions of senior management teachers on how School Development Planning, henceforth SDP, will affect and influence second level education in this country.

In Chapter 1 - **Introduction** - SDP is defined and put in its Irish and European context. The concept and rationale for SDP is outlined viz., societal change, rapid pace of curricular change, accountability, transparency, quality assurance, school effectiveness and improvement, and value for money. The benefits and weaknesses of SDP are outlined.

Chapter 2 - **The Contexts of SDP** - is a review of the literature on the context of SDP in a changing society.

Chapter 3 - **The Study** - outlines the instrument used in this study. This is comprised of a 14 item questionnaire, administered to senior management teachers in nine schools in South West Cork. This chapter includes an outline of the objectives, method, structure and presentation of results.

Chapter 4 - **Analysis of survey results** - deals with the actual investigation of the perceptions of senior management teachers of SDP. It also includes the perceptions of those teachers on how self evaluation, an integral part of SDP, may be of benefit to schools. In all, seventeen tables of statistics and comparisons, and ten figures are presented, commented upon and analysed.

Chapter 5 - **Summary of findings and conclusions** - this chapter deals with the problems for the school development planning initiative identified in Chapter 4 by the senior management teachers in the nine West Cork schools.