

**Walsh, Anne Marie, 2003, *The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme: A Critical Study.***

### **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

The aim of this study is to look at a particular innovation in the Irish school curriculum, the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), with particular reference to school/business links. This writer set out to elicit an overview of the experience of the participating employers and students in three Irish schools, a community school, a vocational school and a voluntary secondary school.

The literature survey outlines the development of second level education, post-primary schools and the senior cycle curriculum in Ireland. Particular attention is paid to economic development, technical and vocational training and the changing needs of students and employers that led to the implementation of the LCVP.

This is followed by a discussion of suitable research methods available for the topic and their advantages and disadvantages. The rationale for the chosen process *i.e.* questionnaires and interviews is given. The content, piloting and administration of these questionnaires and interviews are then outlined.

The data collected from the questionnaires and interviews is collated and presented. Discussion and analysis follow which lead to a basis for the conclusions and recommendations. These conclusions and recommendations are aimed at improving the experience of LCVP for students, employers, the LCVP coordination team and the research schools.