

Walsh, Canice, 2004, *A Comparative Study of Continuing Education in an Urban and Rural College*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

The purpose of this research is to look at adult and continuing education in Ireland. The author proposes to examine two colleges involved in the provision of further education and to survey 50 students in each college. The reason for carrying out the research is to determine their reasons for continuing with or returning to education. These two colleges are in completely different environments – one is in a large urban area and the other is in a rural town. The study is organised into five chapters.

Chapter One looks at the organisation of Continuing Education in Ireland, especially the nature and work of FETAC, which is the body responsible for promoting and awarding certification for continuing education. This chapter also proposes research questions, on which, it is hoped, this particular research will throw some light.

Chapter Two looks at the legislation underpinning continuing education in Ireland. It also looks at the available literature on the topic.

Chapter Three looks at the nature of educational research, with particular reference to the research instruments chosen for this particular study. The concepts of validity and reliability, as well as ethical aspects of research, are examined and discussed.

Chapter Four presents the results of the research and discusses them within the context of previous studies and other related research.

Chapter Five draws conclusions from the research and makes recommendations for further research in this particular area.