



# **National University of Science and Technology**

**Think in Other Terms**

**FACULTY OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

**“AN ASSESSMENT OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE POOR  
PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS BY ELECTRICAL AND  
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN PRIVATE TECHNICAL  
COLLEGES-A CASE STUDY OF BULAWAYO METROPOLITAN PRIVATE  
COLLEGES”**

**A RESEARCH/DESSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE**

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE BACHELOR OF TECHNICAL TEACHER  
EDUCATION (HONOURS) DEGREE IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC  
ENGINEERING**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The aim of the research study is to assess the factors contributing to the poor performance in public examinations by Electrical and Electronic Engineering students in private colleges in the Bulawayo Metropolitan. When the economic meltdown set in after the year 2000, colleges started losing lecturers and lecturers while students dropped out en masse. Besides the economic crisis and funding problems, there were problems of localising examinations which led to corruption and cheating through the opening and selling of examination papers, deterioration of learning and examination standards which led the mushrooming of private colleges offering poor quality education.

Private educational institutions have been lowering basic entry requirements to enroll more students, while there is a perception that examination have become easier, resulting in lower quality graduates. Decaying infrastructure and onslaught on schools and tertiary institutions' autonomy through undue political interference have had a telling effect on the quality of the country's education, which needs a major policy shift and robust funding in order to get back on the rails.

It was found that major causes of poor performance by Electrical and Electronic students was due to lowering of basic entry qualifications, decaying infrastructure, unqualified lecturers, low motivation of lecturers and lack of resources among other factors. Some of the colleges went to the extent of enrolling students without even a single 'O' level subject. Their object was nothing but money at the expense of service delivery which is quality education. The study was centred on a selected number of students and lecturers from the aforementioned colleges.

The data collection instruments that were used included the questionnaire, the interviews and primary documents. The data obtained through these instruments were systematically presented. The data were further critically analyzed and discussed within the context of the statement of the problem and its sub problems. The study recommends that the private colleges' authorities should establish poor performance resolution strategies for students so that both lecturers and students would have a symbiotic relationship.

Finally, it also recommends that further research be undertaken in order to establish how best the college authorities could resolve the poor performance issue by students especially the Electrical and Electronic Engineering students.