



**National University of  
Science and Technology**  
Think in Other Terms



FACULTY OF TECHNICAL TEACHER EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL TEACHER EDUCATION

COURSE; FINAL YEAR PROJECT; TIE 3020

TOPIC; AN INVESTIGATION INTO POOR PERFORMANCE IN  
WOODWORK BY STUDENTS IN O'LEVEL EXAMINATIONS. A  
CASE STUDY OF MZILIKAZI DISTRICT IN BULAWAYO  
METROPOLITAN PROVINCE.

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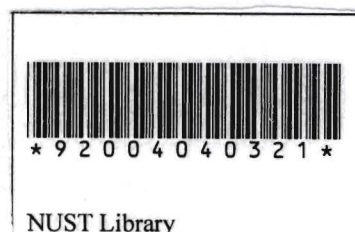
STUDENT NUMBER: NO108931T

SUBJECT: WOOD TECHNOLOGY

SUPERVISOR: DR. M. MPOFU

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## Abstract

This study sought to investigate into poor performance in woodwork by students in O'Level examinations, with particular reference to the secondary schools in the Mzilikazi District in Bulawayo Metropolitan Province. This was, in the main, a quantitative study in which the attitudes and opinions of woodwork teachers and learners were sought so as to ascertain the contributory factors to poor performance and establish possible strategies to reduce the failure rate of learners. It is from a target group of 738, 18 woodwork teachers and 720 woodwork learners that a sample size of 81, 9 teachers and 72 learners, was extracted. The specific objectives which this study sought to ascertain were; to determine whether availability of resources has any effect in the pass rate by woodwork learners; to establish the student's attitude towards O'Level woodwork as a subject; to investigate contributory factors towards the poor performance of students at O'Level; to determine possible strategies to reduce the failure rate of the students in O'Level woodwork examinations. The main research instruments used in this study were two sets of questionnaires, A and B. questionnaire A which had both open and closed – ended was administered to 9 woodwork teachers . Questionnaire B was administered to 72 woodwork learners.

A pilot study was also undertaken to check on the non – availability of the questionnaires. The total response rate was a significant 89%. The findings were as follows; there still exist that old stereotype of thinking in learners that subjects like woodwork are specifically meant for males. The study revealed that all 63 respondent woodwork learners were males, woodwork teachers in the Mzilikazi District have either a certificate in Education (woodwork) or Diploma in Education (wood technology). All respondent teachers have been teaching for 10 or more years, most secondary schools in the district operate with inadequate timber for use by learners, there are shortages of vital resources in school workshops in the form of marking and cutting tools, learners still harbour negative attitudes and beliefs about woodwork as a subject, teachers going on leave do not get qualified replacements.

The following recommendations were made;- adequate funding is needed to purchase and restock the workshops with timber, equipment and tools that are in demand; teachers needed professional development. It was recommended that school authorities make concerted efforts to educate learners on the significance and importance of woodwork as a subject. This could be achieved through the involvement of parents in regular guidance sessions in schools. Another recommendation put forward was that the ministry should consider offering woodwork at A'Level. Finally it was recommended that there should be wholesome commitment by government authorities to the implementation of the policy document on the recommendations of the Nziramasanga Commission of Inquiry into Education, 1999. For purposes of future research it was recommended that a similar study be undertaken in other districts and province be generalized to cover the entire country.