



MAURITIUS RESEARCH COUNCIL

HALF-DAY SEMINAR

MRC Unsolicited Research and Innovation Grant Scheme:

*Students' (& Graduates) difficulties in Science,
Mathematics and Technology during transitions from
Secondary to Tertiary Levels, and to Teacher Training*

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Venue: *Lecture Theatre
Mauritius Institute of Education
Rduit*

Date: 14 August 2019

Time: 13:30 hrs

Mauritius Research Council

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"Students' (& Graduates) difficulties in Science, Mathematics and Technology during transitions from Secondary to Tertiary Levels, and to Teacher Training"

Synopsis

Transitions from one education level to another, particularly from Secondary to Tertiary and then to Teacher Education, are widely regarded as potentially challenging experiences for students and graduates. These challenging transitions are often concentrated around the transfer of knowledge, skills and competencies, and how the learners deal with the changing context, setting, interactions among peers, teachers and families and career expectations.

While a number of learners can make the transition successfully, others find it difficult and are often unsuccessful in the completion of their respective courses and programmes. This research project thus focused on investigating the various factors influencing students' understanding, perceptions and attitudes in relation to transitioning from secondary to tertiary education and then eventually into teacher education.

Questionnaires were administered and semi-structured interviews were carried out as part of the methodological approaches to gather qualitative and quantitative data for the study. A network thematic approach was adopted to analyse the qualitative data in conjunction with the quantitative data as part of the triangulation process.

Result from the study highlights the complexity associated with learners' transitions from one educational level to the next. Common broad issues found among students' centred around (i) the perception of the traditional teaching and learning approaches which results in rote learning and memorisation by learners; (ii) inadequate counselling which may develop into diminished educational attainment and inadequate career choice preparation; and (iii) limited scientific reasoning which abates the cognitive and personality development of the learners.

Based on the insights gained from the A-Level students, university graduates and trainees in a teacher education institute coupled with the academic literature, the relevant recommendations are proposed to ensure a smooth and effective educational transition for learners.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

13:00 – 13:30

Registration of Participants

13:30 – 13:35

Welcome Address

*Dr O Nath Varma, Director
Mauritius Institute of Education*

13:35 – 13:40

Introductory Remarks

*Dr N Gopaul, Officer-In-Charge
Mauritius Research Council*

13:40 – 13:50

Address

*Dr M Atchia, Chairman
Mauritius Research Council*

13:50 – 14:20

Presentation of Research Findings

*Prof Y Ramma (Principal Investigator)
Mauritius Institute of Education*

14:20 – 14:35

Questions and Answers

(Fielded by the Research Team)

14:35 – 14:40

Vote of Thanks

*Dr N Gopaul, Officer-In-Charge
Mauritius Research Council*

14:40

Tea Break