Towards supporting tutoring in a semi-distance environmental education course: a Namibian case study

By

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Submitted in part fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF EDUCATION- WITH SPECIALISATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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June 2004

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I declare that 'Towards supporting tutoring in a semi distance environmental education course: a Namibian case study' is my own work and that all sources that I have used or have quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references

Signed Date: 14 June 2004

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Acknowledgements

I would like to offer gratitude to the ‘Supporting Environmental Education in Namibia’ project and all involved with it who have supported me throughout the process of this research. I would also like to thank the tutors of the ‘Namibian Environmental Education Certificate’ course who have trusted me to represent their thoughts, feelings and experiences of tutoring throughout 2003. I hope I have helped both you and future tutors with your roles and responsibilities. I would also like to thank my supervisor, Professor Cheryl le Roux for supporting both my thoughts in this research and the process of writing up such thoughts. Finally I would like to offer my gratitude to my family especially my husband Dieter and my sons Oliver and Max who have remained patient throughout the time taken to complete my Masters.

Summary

Tutors are key supporters within semi-distance education and as such comprehensive support of tutoring is necessary to provide the best possible support to learners. This case study investigates how tutoring can be better supported within a semi-distance part-time professional development course in environmental education. The course, aimed at adults working in environmental education fields, is seen as an important strategy for helping participants become critical, reflexive and active environmental education practitioners who can start working on solutions to environmental issues. This study found that most challenges to successful tutoring lay in the availability and competence of human resources within Namibia. Additionally improvement in the management of tutor and learner support systems, information, guidance and enrolment and finally of learning resources is seen as essential to better support a successful tutoring process. An alternative model of tutoring is offered as a way of overcoming the major tutoring challenges outlined in this study.

Key terms:
Tutoring, support, semi-distance education, environmental education, course development, professional development, volunteer, adult learning, management, mentoring.

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Acronyms

AT	Advisory Teacher
BETD	Basic Education Teaching Diploma
BETD-INSET	Basic Education Teaching Diploma- In-service programme
BETD-PRESET	Basic Education Teaching Diploma- Pre-service programme
DANCED	Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development
DRFN	Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
GRN	Government of the Republic of Namibia
MEC	Ministry of Education and Culture
MBEC	Ministry of Basic Education and Culture
MBESC	Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MHEVTEC	Ministry of Higher Education, Vocational Training and Employment Creation
Namcol	Namibia's College of Open Learning
NEEC	Namibian Environmental Education Certificate
NEEN	Namibian Environmental Education Network
RUGF	Rhodes university/Gold Fields Participatory Course in Environmental Education
SADC-REEC	Southern African Development Community- Regional Environmental Education Centre
SEEN	Supporting Environmental Education in Namibia project
TA	Technical Advisor
TE	Teacher Educator
Unam	University of Namibia