THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN DEALING WITH SOLID WASTE IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT OF THOHOYANDOU

by

Elizabeth Rwakitarate Ddungu

submitted in part fulfilment of the requirements of the degree

of

MASTER OF EDUCATION
WITH SPECIALISATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Supervisor: Dr LDM Lebeloane
November 2004
DEDICATION

To those who started it all --- my parents, Jane and Godfrey Rwakitarate, my dearest husband, Peter Ddungu, who has loved and supported me all the way, and our dear children whom I hope will follow in our footsteps.

“Hope is believing despite the evidence and then watching the evidence change.”

James Wallis
DECLARATION

I, Elizabeth Rwakitarate Ddungu, hereby declare that this dissertation for the Master’s in Education degree with specialisation in Environmental Education, at the University of South Africa has not previously been submitted for a degree at this or any other university, and it is my work in design and execution and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the following people:

- Dr LDM Lebeloane, my supervisor and promoter, for guiding and helping me throughout this research. This research would not have been possible without his assistance.

- Dakalo Mabuda, Simon Madi, Mr MJ Netshivhambe and Liziwe Nteleza Keitumetse Totouwe for their support. Without them, this research would never have become a reality.

- Edith Kiggundu and Elizabeth Lubinga whose support and encouragement challenged me to work towards my dream and achieve it.

- My dear husband, Peter, for his unstinting support and encouragement. Our children, Tendo and Suubi, who tolerated my schedule without complaint.

- Almighty God, who has been my tower of strength in all things --- past, present and future.
SUMMARY

The aim of this study was to explore the role of environmental education in dealing with solid waste in the Central Business District of Thohoyandou.

The study was carried out in the Thohoyandou Central Business District (CBD). Two organisations were identified as practising environmental education in Thohoyandou, namely, the Environmental Education Desk (Environmental Affairs) and the Environmental Health Services (Thulamela Municipality). Officers from these organisations were interviewed.

Vendors and hawkers in the Thohoyandou Central Business District were asked to complete a questionnaire on the role of environmental education in dealing with solid waste.

The literature review in the study included the theoretical perspectives on environmental education and solid waste. From this review that solid waste can have both a positive and negative impact on the local and global environment.

Therefore, environmental education that has a role in dealing with solid waste has an important part to play in sustainable development.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER 1 ORIENTATION

1.1 Introduction 1  
1.2 The problem 4  
1.3 Aim and objective of the study 4  
1.4 Research method 4  
1.5 Programme of the study 6

## CHAPTER 2 THE THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

2.1 Introduction 7  
2.2 Definition of terms and concepts 7  
2.3 The impact of solid waste on the environment 11  
2.4 The role of environmental education in dealing with solid waste 17  
2.5 Summary 27

## CHAPTER 3 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS AND AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

3.1 Introduction 28  
3.2 Qualitative research: an overview 28  
3.2.1 The purpose of qualitative research 29  
3.2.2 The importance of qualitative research for this study 30  
3.2.3 Methods of gathering data in qualitative research 31
### 3.3 Research design

- **3.3.1 Location of the study**
- **3.3.2 Sample of respondents/target population**
- **3.3.3 Sampling procedures**
- **3.3.4 Limitations of the study**
- **3.3.5 Collection of data**
  - **3.3.5.1 Interviews**
  - **3.3.5.2 Questionnaires**

### 3.4 Data analysis and interpretation

- **3.4.1 Interview reports**
- **3.4.2 Analysis of the data collected from the questionnaires**

### 3.5 Summary

### CHAPTER 4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 4.1 Introduction

#### 4.2 Summary of findings

- **4.2.1 From the literature review**
- **4.2.2 From the qualitative analysis**
- **4.2.3 From the data analysis**
  - **4.2.3.1 Interviews**
  - **4.2.3.2 Questionnaires**

#### 4.3 Recommendations
### APPENDICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Map of South Africa</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Map of Limpopo Province</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Map of Thohoyandou</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Letter of permission to interview/question</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sample of questionnaire</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sample of Thulamela Municipality monthly work plan</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIST OF REFERENCES

| List | 70 |