

PAPER:

***QUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION:
A SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE***

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Abstract:

- An orientation of what entails quality and diversity in the South African education system will be given, as well as practical examples and scenarios of situations at various education institutions such as technikons, training colleges and other providers.
- An elucidation of the impact and effects on systems, processes, products and people that quality and diversity of research has had on these institutions especially in the past and present.
- The introduction of the South African Qualifications Authority and the national Qualification Framework and the new challenges of research in higher education.
- The value of continuous research and its contributions in ensuring excellence, effectiveness and a demonstrable knowledge base for planning and the refinement of practice in higher education will be identified.
- The practicability, success rates and potential failures of research data which could be utilized for the professionalism and reputation of institution of higher learning will be discussed. Attention will be given to the consequence of inadequate research.
- The role of quality and diversity in higher education as an integral part of the national policy on higher education, will be outlined.
- The neglect of research and research results and the depletion of standards in higher education and training will be considered.
- Concluding remarks will address the question: Whither quality and diversity in research?