

The Reliability of Mentor Assessments in Teaching Practice in an Open Distance e-Learning (ODeL) Context

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KEYWORDS Mentoring. Student-Teacher Assessments. Teaching Practice. Leadership Potential

ABSTRACT All Teacher Education Institutions depend on school-based mentors to assist and guide student teachers doing teaching practice. Some also depend on mentors to do some of the assessments of these student teachers. ODeL institutions depend on these mentors even more as their lecturers cannot visit all students everywhere. For an ODeL institution it is therefore of critical importance that assessments done by mentors should be reliable. Research for this article was undertaken to determine if assessments done by mentors that were utilised by a particular ODeL institution were reliable and if not how that can be remedied. The findings indicate that most mentor assessments are not very reliable at this stage but that good training in mentoring and assessment can improve the reliability of such assessments. For ODeL institutions it is therefore critical to ensure that quality mentor training precedes the appointment of mentors so that more reliable mentor assessments can be made.