### **DECLARATION**

I, Anna Mmatsididi Magoro hereby declare that this Dissertation submitted for the Degree of Master of Education, in the Faculty of Educational Management at University of Limpopo has not previously been submitted by me for the Degree at this University or any other University.

I therefore declare that this is my own work in design and in execution, and all material contained therein has been duly acknowledged.

Signed:	•••	• •	•	 • •	•	• •	•	••	•	• •	•	•	•	•	 •	•	•	•	•	,
Date:				 																

### **DEDICATION**

This research is dedicated to the following people:

- My mother, Moshayi Flora Magoro and in the memory of My late father, Sinkele Magoro.
- 2. My children Malekutu and Moshayi.
- 3. To all the colleagues who are committed to improve parental involvement at their schools.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am grateful for the following people who assisted me in completion of this dissertation.

Firstly I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. L.E. Matsaung and his collegue Prof S. Maile for guiding me through troubled water, when the going got tough, they were always there for me. Dr. D. Levey who edited the whole document, need to be thanked whole-heartedly.

Secondly, I would like to thank my mother, who has been caring and loving granny for my kids (Kgothatso and Katlego) day and night, when I was always out for my research.

Thirdly, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my sister's son Joseph Sathekge who has been supportive and encouraging throughout this study.

Fourthly, I would like to thank school principal, Heads of Departments, Educators and Parents in Mankweng circuit who were respondents in this study. Without the support of all the above people and those that I could not mention, this would not have been done.

Above all, I would like to thank the Almighty God for giving me strength, prosperity and power to complete this dissertation.

#### **ABSTRACT**

Lack of parental involvement in primary schools has been a burning issue to fellow educators, school managers and departmental officials in Mankweng circuit in Limpopo Province. Parents too were dissatisfied about their children's performance.

The main aim of this study was to investigate causes which hinder learner performance and intend to develop or propose strategies to be used to improve learner performance.

Research and practice indicate that parental involvement remains a crucial topic effort to enhance school effectiveness. However, principals in schools still experience a number of problems in this regard and do not succeed in obtaining optimal involvement of parents. The present research therefore investigated the Impact of Parental Involvement on Learner Performance. Although it was possible to isolate factors responsible for non-involvement of parents, it is clear that each of these factors must not be seen in isolation, they cumulatively compound the problem of Parental Involvement.

Method used for this study was qualitative and quantitative approaches. Populations were from parents, principals, heads of departments and educators. Questionnaires, interviews, observations and documents were used as instruments to obtain information from respondents. Data was analysed

using tables and figures. The major findings of the research revealed that, principals are of the opinion that parents in rural areas and lower socio-economic areas present a special problem as they lack interest in parental involvement in schools for education of their children.

## LIST OF TABLES

## Section A (Principals)

Table	Pages
1. Details on gender of respondents	40
2. Details on age of respondents	41
3. Details on length of service in education sector	41
4. Details on respondent's highest academic	
qualifications	42
5. Details on professional qualifications	42
6. Details on respondents to assess the performance	2
Of their school SGB	43
7. Details on parent's attendants in consultation	45
8. Details on whether parents are allowed to assist	
In extra-curricular activities	46
9. Details on what respondents think might be the	
Obstacles that hinder parental involvement	46
10. Details on how respondents facilitate P I in the	
day to day operations of the school.	47
11. Details on what is to be done to improve P I	48
12. Details on respondent's effectiveness of their	
Organisation's structure	49
13. Details on whether the respondents benefited or	1
The questionnaire or not.	

# Section B (HODs)

14. Details on gender of respondents	51
15. Details on age of respondents	51
16. Details on length of service in education sector	52
17. Details on respondent's highest academic	
qualifications	53
18. Details on professional qualifications	53
19. Details on whether parents are invited on	
Occasions like farewell	54
20. Details on differentiation between P I in the past	
And presently	55
21. Details on how respondents relate parenting to	
Parental involvement.	56
22. Details on respondents to assess the performance	e
Of their school SGB	57
23. Details on parent's attendants in consultation	59
24. Details on what respondents think might be the	
Obstacles that hinder parental involvement	59
25. Details on what is to be done to improve P I	60
26. Details on whether the respondents benefited on	
The questionnaire or not.	61

# Section C (Educators)

27. Details on gender of respondents	62
28. Details on age of respondents	63
29. Details on length of service in education sector	63
30. Details on respondent's highest academic	
qualifications	64
31. Details on professional qualifications	65
32. Details on definition of parental involvement	65
33. Details on respondents to indicate the area in	
Which they are trained in P I	66
34. Details on what is to be done to improve P I	67
35. Details on whether the respondents benefited on	
The questionnaire or not	68
Section D (Parents)	
36. Details on where respondents live	69
37. Details on whether respondents can read or write	e70
38. Details on where did the respondents attend	
School	71
39. Details on how respondents are related to their	
Communities	71
40. Details on the relationship between respondents	
And the educators of their children	72
41. Details on whether respondents are allowed to	
Visit their children at school even if your not	

Requested to do so	73
42. Details on satisfaction of respondents on educati	ion of
their children	73
43. Details on the importence of respondents to	
Have a say on education of their children	73
44. Details on how respondents will feel if they are	
offered a training	74
45. Details on whether educators call respondents in	1
Connections with their children's behavior	74
46. Details on how would the respondents like the	
Relationship between them and educations	75
47. Details on whether respondents assist their child	dren
with their school work at home	76
48. Details on how the relationship between the	
principal and the respondents.	76
49. Details on how the relationship between the	
SGB and the respondents.	77
50. Details on whether SGB call parents meetings.	77
51. Details on how respondents can differentiate old	
Parental involvement and the present one.	78

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

**SGB** = School Governing Body

**FD** = Frequency Distribution

**PI** = Parental Involvement

**HODs** = Heads of Departments

TABLE OF CONTENTS	<b>PAGES</b>
Declaration	i
Dedication	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
Abstract	iv
List of Tables	vi
Abbreviations	viii
CHAPTER 1	
Background of the study	
1. Introduction	1
2. Problem statement	2
3. Significance of the study	2
4. Research questions	3
5. Aims and objectives	4
6. Delimitation of the school	4
7. Theoretical framework	4
8. Definition of basic concepts	6
9. Research programme	9
CHAPTER 2	
Literature Review	
2.1. Introduction	10
2.2. What is parental involvement all about	13
2.3. Parental involvement in South African schools	14

	3. Types of parental involvement		16
	3.1. Parenting		17
	3.2. Communicating		17
	3.3. Volunteering		17
	3.4. Learning at home		18
	3.5. Decision-making		18
	3.6. Collaborating with the community		18
	4. Basic models on parental involvement		18
	5. Different roles played by the government		21
	6. Strategies for parental involvement		24
	Different strategies for parental involvement	24	
	The key to successful strategies for parental	invo	olvement
	25		
	Barriers for implementation of strategies	for	parental
in	volvement	26	
	How parents can influence strategic	for	parental
in	volvement	27	
	7. Conclusion		28
	CHAPTER 3		
	Research Methodology		
	3.1. Introduction		30
	3.2. Research design		30
	3.3. Population of the study		31
	3.4. Sample and sampling procedures		32
	3.5. Instruments used in the study		33

3.5.1. Questionnaires	33
3.5.2. Interviews	34
3.5.3 Observations	35
3.5.4. Documents	35
3.6. Data analysis	36
3.7. Data collection procedure	36
3.8. Reliability and validity of the document	37
3.9. Ethical consideration	37
3.10. The right to privacy	38
3.11. Conclusion	38
CHAPTER 4	
Data Analysis and Interpretation	
4.1. Introduction	39
4.2. Method of presentation	39
4.3. Summary of the findings	40
4.3.1. Research question for principals	40
4.3.2. Research question for heads of departments	51
4.3.3. Research question for Educators	62
4.3.4. Research interviews for parents	69
CHAPTER 5	
Findings, Recommendations and Conclusion	
5.1.1 Findings pertaining to principals	80
5.1.2 Recommendations	81
5.1.3 Findings pertaining to heads of departments	83

5.1.4	Recommendations	84
5.1.5	Findings pertaining to educators	84
5.1.6	Recommendations for educators	85
5.1.7	Findings pertaining to parents	86
5.1.8	Recommendations for parents	87
5.1.9	Conclusion	88
	Bibliography	91