

ABSTRACT

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TRAINING RECEIVED
AT TEACHERS' COLLEGE AND THE CLASSROOM
BEHAVIOURS OF NEWLY TRAINED TEACHERS IN
THE PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM
IN THE COUNTY OF VICTORIA

BEULAR MITCHELL

Teacher education is a system through which student teachers are prepared to function effectively in a nation's school and through which their professional growth is fostered. Consequently, the quality of education which students in the various classrooms receive will, to a great degree, depend on the quality of the teacher education system which exists. This being the case, care should be taken to ensure that the system is effective, that is that student teachers are indeed being adequately prepared to function effectively in the class room. This effectiveness can be measured by the transfer and maintenance of that which is taught at teachers' college in the classroom.

This research project sought to establish the relationship between that which is taught at teachers' college and the actual teaching behaviours of newly trained teachers in an attempt to establish

the effectiveness of the teacher education system, identify the factors which appear to work against the effectiveness of the system, and to identify possible measures which may serve to rectify the problems identified.

After finding out what student teachers were taught while at teachers' college, classroom observations were carried out to determine what newly trained teachers were actually doing in the classroom. It was found that there was little transfer of that which was taught at teachers' college into the classroom. This seemed to suggest that there may be some weakness in the existing system. Attempts were made to identify them. Then a possible solution was established - a reconceptualization and reorganization of the teacher education programme. Should this not prove immediately possible, then the urgent introduction/establishment of support systems to bolster the existing programme.