

A STUDY OF CURRICULUM OFFICERS' PERCEPTIONS OF
THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION-MAKING
PROCESS IN THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT CENTRE,
MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to explore the degree to which curriculum officers employed by the Curriculum Development Centre (CDC), Malaysia perceive themselves as participating in decision-making in the Centre, and the degree to which they express a desire to participate.

As far as can be established no previous studies on the topic of participation have been undertaken in this or any other Curriculum Development Centre. As a result no pre-existing literature was available and therefore the theoretical context has been derived from organisations generally and schools in particular.

The study was based on responses to a questionnaire by a sample of 72 curriculum officers and on interview material from 8 curriculum officers.

The data indicate that there is a recognition that ultimate decision should rest with the Director of CDC, that there is a degree of participation in decision-making by curriculum officers -especially in curriculum matters and at unit level, but also a general desire for greater involvement in decision-making in certain areas, for example in curriculum matters where participation is already reported as high, and in the areas of policy, planning, and budgets. There is a lower level of desire for increased participation in other areas, for example staff management.

The dissertation ends with a discussion of the findings in relation to existing theory on decision-making with which the data broadly appear to confirm and a discussion of issues for CDC which arise from the data.