UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL ™
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WORKING PAPER

Impact of Student Attendance on Performance for Commerce Undergraduate Students at UKZN: A Case of Technology Management.

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OUTLINE

- Background and Motivation
- Objectives
- Definitions
- Literature
- Research and Methodology
- Findings
- Limitations
- Conclusions and Recommendations

BACKGROUND & MOTIVATION

Study argument is built on the following

- Issue is important to improve student performance thus reducing the attrition rate
- Issue is important to ensure that module knowledge is learnt

DEFINITIONS

- Academic Development Workshop: Support Structure designed to assist students with the material in smaller groups (Supplemental Instruction-SI)
- Lecture : Lecturer delivers the syllabus in a classroom setting. Usually Large classes
- Performance: As expected by the lecturers is (Killen & Fraser, 2005)
  - Effective Written communication
  - Ability to reason logically
  - Insight into the field of study
  - Use of Higher order thinking skills

DEFINITIONS (CONT)

- Attendance: Combination of Lectures and Academic Development Workshops for Technology Management Students.

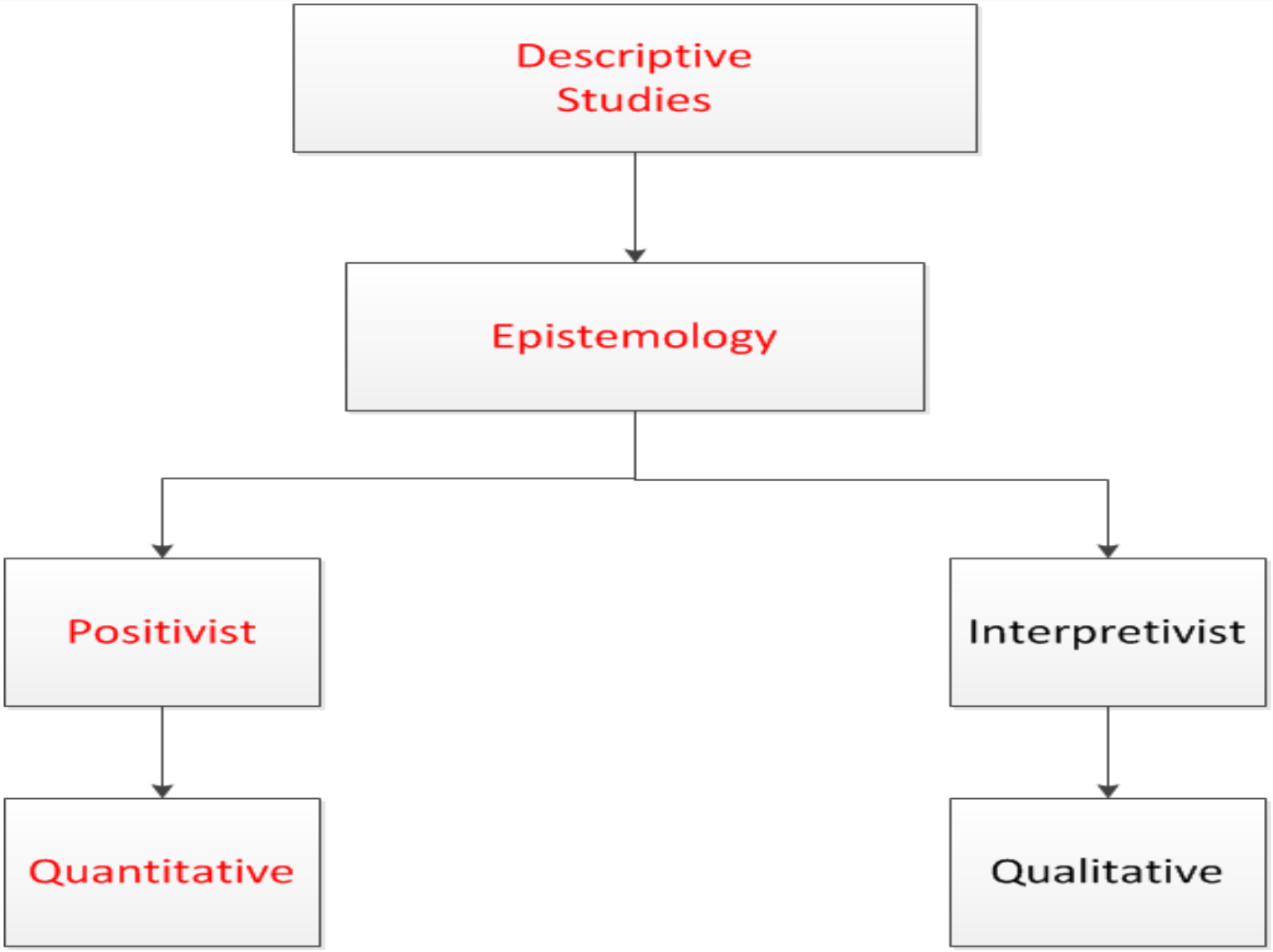
OBJECTIVES

- Relationship between attending lectures and performance for a module
- Relationship between attending Academic Development Workshops with performance
- Relationship between attending both the Academic Development workshops and lectures with performance

LITERATURE

- Older research states that there is a link between attending and performing for students
  - Riggs & Blanco (1994)
  - Durden & Ellis (1995)
  - Lamdin (1996)
- 2004 Van Walbeek contests this, he then suggests that this link may be weaker than we thought. Premise of this research.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY-RM



DATA

- Secondary sources of data
  - Attendance
    - Lecture attendance
    - Workshop attendance
    - Monitored via registers
  - Class Marks
    - Assessments (assignment, presentation, test)
    - Exam (Main and Supp)

POPULATION DEFINED

- Total lectures = 25
- Total registered students = 66

Lectures	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 25
No. attended lectures	1	14	20	14	16
No. attended workshops	1	9	13	7	12

SI V.S NON-SI STUDENTS

Module	SI Students	No. of SI Students who passed	% Pass rate	Non SI Students	No. of Non SI students who passed	% Pass rate
MGNT314	46	45	98%	20	18	90%

	As (75 – 100)	Bs (70 – 74)	Cs (60 – 69)	Ds (50 – 59)	Es (40 – 49)
SI	00	01	20	24	01
NonSI	00	00	03	15	02

SI : Supplemental Instruction
Non SI : No Supplemental Instruction

RELATIONSHIPS

- Highest Mark = 72% (1 student) – attended 8 lectures and consulted 5 times
- Attended >= 2 consults (22 students)

  = 59% average
- Attended >=80% lectures (19 students)

  = 56% average
- Attended >=80% lectures + >=2 consults (7 students)

  = 59% average

LIMITATIONS

- Factors enabling students who do not attend lectures and workshops to perform well, their success remains unknown.
- Factors attributed to students who still fail despite attending the lectures and workshops
- This study does not extend to the critique of the teaching methods or materials used

LIMITATIONS

- It is based on the current year solely.
- Student performance and capabilities prior to the research has not been considered
- Student socio-economic influences are not considered.
- Student perceptions on the performance is not considered.
- Large class variable was not considered.

CONCLUSION

There is a relationship between lecture and workshop attendance for most but not all students.

The highest performing students seem to prefer to attend the five workshops over and above

FURTHER RESEARCH AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FURTHER RESEARCH

- Further research including a mixed method approach
- Multivariate methodology in conducting the research and analysis.
- Consider a study carried out over a minimum of 3 years to a maximum of 5 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Integration of the academic development workshops into the normal delivery of the module.
- Make it an option and not compulsory because not all students experience problems, some students perform better with the use of workshops, other both and some lectures.
- Conducting further research that takes into consideration the limitations identified