**HDC4/08 Doctoral**



**HIGHER DEGREES COMMITTEE**

**EXAMINER’S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON A DOCTORAL THESIS**

**Student Number : ………………………………………………………………………………**

**Candidate : ………………………………………………………………………………**

**Title of Thesis : ………………………………………………………………………………**

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**Module Code : ………………………**

**Date : ………………………**

**Examiner : ……………………………………………………………………….**

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| --- | --- |
| **Attribute**  | **Rating (1-5)** |
| **1. Introduction**  |  **……. /5** |
| * Clear articulation of the research problem and its significance
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Well-defined research questions or hypotheses
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Comprehensive overview of the study's objectives and scope
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Comment (s):**  |
| **2. Literature Review**  |  **……. /5** |
| * Extensive and critical review of relevant literature
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Identification of theoretical frameworks and key concepts
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Clear demonstration of the research gap and the study's contribution to the field
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Comment (s):**  |
| **3. Methodology**  |  **……. /5** |
| * Detailed description and justification of research design and methods
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Rigorous data collection and analysis procedures
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Addressing ethical considerations and research limitations
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Comment (s):**  |  |
| **4. Results/Findings**  |  **……. /5** |
| * Clear and systematic presentation of research findings
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Appropriate use of statistical or qualitative analysis techniques
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Direct alignment with research questions or hypotheses
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Comment (s):**  |
| **5. Discussion**  |  **……. /5** |
| * In-depth interpretation of results in the context of existing theories and literature
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Discussion of the implications of the findings for theory, practice, and future research
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Critical reflection on the study's limitations and the reliability and validity of the findings
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Comment (s):**  |
| **6. Conclusion**  |  **……. /5** |
| * Concise summary of key findings and their significance
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Restatement of the study's contribution to knowledge and practice
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Recommendations for future research or policy
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Comment (s):**  |
| **7. Presentation and Writing**  |  **……. /5** |
| * Coherent structure and logical flow of the dissertation
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Clear, concise, and academic writing style
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Adherence to formatting and referencing guidelines
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Comment (s):**  |
| **8. Contribution to the knowledge** |  **……. /5** |
| * Originality and unique contribution to the field of study
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Depth and rigor of analysis
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Potential impact on theory, practice, or policy
 |  |  |  |  |  |

**RECOMMENDATION**

* The thesis be accepted and no errors need to be corrected
* The thesis be accepted, but the editorial and/or other minor corrections I have indicated in my report be made to the promoter's satisfaction.
* The thesis be referred to the candidate for revision of certain aspects and be presented for re-examination within a year.
* The thesis not be accepted

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**SIGNATURE DATE**

**Detailed guidelines for marking**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Rating****5** | **Rating****4** | **Rating****3** | **Rating****2** | **Rating****1** |
| 1. **Introduction**

Clarity of research topic/purpose/question/problem statementJustification and significance of the studyObjectives and scope of the research | The title/topic, aims andobjectives of the study are clear, relevant, innovative, and original.The scope iscomprehensive and identified knowledge gapsrelating to the problem statement and scientificallygrounded. | The title/topic,aims and objectives have been identified.The scope is fully aligned and motivated and identified knowledge gapsrelating to the problem statement and scientificallygrounded. | The title/topic,aims and objectives have been indicated. Aims and objectives are mostly clear butbut lack originality.The scope is aligned and motivated and identified knowledge gaps relating to the problem statement and scientifically grounded.  | The title/topic,aims and objectives have been indicated to some extent. Aims and objectives are too broad and lack originality.The scope is inadequately aligned and not fully motivated and does not identify knowledge gaps relating to the problem statement. | The title/topic,aims and objectives have been indicated inadequately. Aims and objectives are unfocused or not provided.The scope is inadequately aligned and not fully motivated and does not identify knowledge gaps relating to the problem statement. |
| **2. Literature review**Relevance and breadth of the literature reviewedCritical analysis and synthesis of the literatureIdentification of research gaps | Excellent literature review and application/link to the current study is extensively indicated. Citation of relevant and recent literature is clear. | Good literature review and application/link to the current study is indicated. Citation of relevant and recent literature is clear. | Adequate literature review and minor shortcomings in terms of application of the relevant literature and citations. | Inadequate literature review and major shortcomings in terms of application of the literature. Use of irrelevant literature and citations. | Literature review is unfocused and irrelevant or not provided. Use of irrelevant literature and citations. |
| **3. Research****Methodology/****Experimental Procedures**Appropriateness of the research design and methodsDescription and justification of data collection methodsEthical considerations and limitations | Research methodology or experimental procedures selected are the most appropriate for the project.The candidates demonstrates advanced ownership and understanding in the application of these procedures. | Attention has been given to the selection of the methodology or experimental procedures. The candidate demonstrates ownership and understanding in the application of these procedures. | Methodology or experimental procedures are appropriate to the task. The candidates demonstrates adequate ownership and understanding in the application of these procedures. | Methodology or experimental procedures lack clarity.The candidates does not demonstrate ownership and understanding in the application of these procedures.  | Inappropriate methodology or experimental procedures used or little planning evident.The candidates does not demonstrate ownership and understanding in the application of these procedures. |
| **4. Results/****Findings** Clarity and accuracy of presentation (tables, figures, etc.)Appropriateness of data analysis methodsAddressing research objectives/questions | Text, images, figures, graphical representations, tables, and illustrations are clear and of an exceptionally high quality and contribute to theformulation of innovativeresearch findings. Adhere to all formal conventions and standards. | Text, images, figures, graphical representations, tables, and illustrations are clear and of a good quality and contribute to the formulation of innovative research findings.Adhere to all formal conventions and standards. | Text, images, figures, graphical representations, tables, and illustrations are of adequate quality and contribute to the formulation of research findings. Most conventions are slightly adhered to. | Text, images, figures, graphical representations, tables, and illustrations are of adisappointing quality and do not contribute to the formulation of research findings. Most conventions are not adhered to. | Text, images, figures, graphical representations, tables, and illustrations of avery disappointing quality and contribute to the unsatisfactoryformulation of research findings.All conventions are notadhered to. |
| **5. Discussion**Interpretation of results in the context of existing literatureImplications of findingsRecognition of limitations and suggestions for future research | Demonstrates advancedlevels of comprehensionand originality in theanalysis of the research findings or data.There is exceptional evidence of new discoveries.The research findings make a significant contribution tothe knowledge base ofthe discipline and field ofstudy. | Demonstrates highlevels of comprehensionand originality in theanalysis of theresearch findings or data.There is some evidence of discovery new discoveries.The research findings make a significant contribution tothe knowledge base ofthe discipline and field ofstudy. | Analysis of the data isadequate enough tomake research findingsand come to conclusions, but lacks new insights andoriginality. Theresearch findings makea minor contribution tothe knowledge base ofthe discipline and fieldof study. | Analysis of the data is inadequate tomake research findings and come to credible conclusions and also lacks new insights andoriginality. | Analysis of the data is highly inadequate tomake research findings and come to credible conclusions and also lacks new insights andoriginality. |
| **6. Conclusions**Summary of key findingsConclusions drawn from the researchRecommendations (if applicable) | The conclusions arerational and reasonable and show a strong linkage with the aims and objectives.  | The conclusions arerational and reasonable and show a linkage with the aims and objectives.  | The conclusions arepartially logical and/orvalid. They arecommunicated clearly. | The conclusions are not logical or valid. They are not communicated clearly. | The conclusions are not provided.  |
| **7. Presentation and Writing**Correct use of grammar, spelling, and punctuationClarity, coherence, and organization of the dissertationAdherence to citation and formatting guidelines | None or very low grammatical or spelling errors apparent.The writing style and layout of the dissertation are of very high quality. The dissertation is constructed in a well-organized pattern, with excellent coherence in terms of argumentation, and style. The logical progression from objectives toconclusions is credible. The chapters of the overall dissertation form an interconnected,coherent unit. | Very low grammatical or spelling errors apparent.The writing style and layout of the dissertation are of good quality.The dissertation isclosely argued andwell structured. Thepresentation bearsevidence of a highlevel of competencewith regards toargumentation,organization andstyle. The chaptersform a coherent unit. | Some grammatical and spelling errors apparent.The writing style and layout of the dissertation are of adequate quality.The greater part of the work is sufficientlycovered, and the text is well organized andclearly argued. | High grammatical and spelling errors apparent.The writing style and layout of the dissertation are of inadequate quality.There are almost nological coherence and progression from the objectives to the findings. The structure and organization are of a poor quality and need considerablerestructuring to ensure a logical flow. | Extreme grammatical and spelling errors apparent.The writing style and layout of the dissertation are weak and of poor quality.There is nological coherence andprogression from theobjectives to thefindings. The structure and organization are of unacceptable quality. |
| **References** | The referencing and citation has been written and reported in an appropriate and extensive way. The format of the list of references are correctand correspond withinternationally acceptableconventions. The reference section contains the most relevant and mostrecent sources. | The referencing and citation has been written and reported in an appropriate way. The format of the list of references are correctand correspond withinternationally acceptableconventions. The reference section contains the most relevant and mostrecent sources. | The referencing and citation has been writtenand reported but the format of the list of references are neithercorrect nor and correspond withinternationally acceptableconventions. The reference section is missing some most relevant andrecent sources. | The referencing and citation is not inline with the standard withinternationally acceptableconventions. The reference section is missing some most relevant andrecent sources. | References are of poor quality or have not been included in the dissertation. |
| **Contribution to the knowledge**Originality and unique contribution to the field of studyDepth and rigor of analysisPotential impact on theory, practice, or policy | There is advancedlevels of originality in the research findings or data.There is exceptional evidence of new discoveries.The research findings make a significant contribution tothe knowledge base ofthe discipline and field of study.There is a strong potential impact on theory, practice, or policy | There is highlevels of originality in the research findings or data.There is some evidence of new discoveries.The research findings make a significant contribution tothe knowledge base ofthe discipline and field of study.There is a high potential impact on theory, practice, or policy | There is adequatelevels of originality in the research findings or data.There is little evidence of new discoveries.The research findings make contribution tothe knowledge base ofthe discipline and field of study.There is a potential impact on theory, practice, or policy | There is a lack of new insights and originality. The research findings make a minor contribution to the knowledge base of the discipline and fieldof study.There is a low potential impact on theory, practice, or policy | There is a lack of new insights and originality. The research findings make a no visible contribution to the knowledge base of the discipline and field of study.There is a no potential impact on theory, practice, or policy |