**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**

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| **Attribute** | **Rating**  **5** | **Rating**  **4** | **Rating**  **3** | **Rating**  **2** | **Rating**  **1** |
| 1. **Introduction**   Clarity of research topic/purpose/question/problem statement  Justification and significance of the study  Objectives and scope of the research | The title/topic,  aims and  objectives of the study are clear, relevant, innovative, and original.  The scope is  comprehensive and identified knowledge gaps  relating to the problem statement and scientifically  grounded. | The title/topic,  aims and objectives have been identified.  The scope is fully aligned and motivated and identified knowledge gaps  relating to the problem statement and scientifically  grounded. | The title/topic,  aims and objectives have been indicated. Aims and objectives are mostly clear but  but 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 reviewed  Critical analysis and synthesis of the literature  Identification 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 methods  Description and justification of data collection methods  Ethical 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 methods  Addressing research objectives/questions | Text, images, figures, graphical representations, tables, and illustrations are clear and of an exceptionally high 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 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 a  disappointing 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 a  very disappointing quality and contribute to the unsatisfactory  formulation of research findings.  All conventions are not  adhered to. |
| **5. Discussion**  Interpretation of results in the context of existing literature  Implications of findings  Recognition of limitations and suggestions for future research | Demonstrates advanced  levels of comprehension  and originality in the  analysis of the research findings or data.  There is exceptional evidence of new discoveries.  The research findings make a significant contribution to  the knowledge base of  the discipline and field of  study. | Demonstrates high  levels of comprehension  and originality in the  analysis of the  research findings or data.  There is some evidence of discovery new discoveries.  The research findings make a significant contribution to  the knowledge base of  the discipline and field of  study. | Analysis of the data is  adequate enough to  make research findings  and come to conclusions, but lacks new insights and  originality. The  research findings make  a minor contribution to  the knowledge base of  the discipline and field  of study. | Analysis of the data is inadequate to  make research findings and come to credible conclusions and also lacks new insights and  originality. | Analysis of the data is highly inadequate to  make research findings and come to credible conclusions and also lacks new insights and  originality. |
| **6. Conclusions**  Summary of key findings  Conclusions drawn from the research  Recommendations (if applicable) | The conclusions are  rational and reasonable and show a strong linkage with the aims and objectives. | The conclusions are  rational and reasonable and show a linkage with the aims and objectives. | The conclusions are  partially logical and/or  valid. They are  communicated 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 punctuation  Clarity, coherence, and organization of the dissertation  Adherence 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 to  conclusions 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 is  closely argued and  well structured. The  presentation bears  evidence of a high  level of competence  with regards to  argumentation,  organization and  style. The chapters  form 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 sufficiently  covered, and the text is well organized and  clearly argued. | High grammatical and spelling errors apparent.  The writing style and layout of the dissertation are of inadequate quality.  There are almost no  logical coherence and progression from the objectives to the findings. The structure and organization are of a poor quality and need considerable  restructuring 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 no  logical coherence and  progression from the  objectives to the  findings. 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 correct  and correspond with  internationally acceptable  conventions. The reference section contains the most relevant and most  recent sources. | The referencing and citation has been written  and reported in an appropriate way. The format of the list of references are correct  and correspond with  internationally acceptable  conventions. The reference section contains the most relevant and most  recent sources. | The referencing and citation has been written  and reported but the format of the list of references are neither  correct nor and correspond with  internationally acceptable  conventions. The reference section is missing some most relevant and  recent sources. | The referencing and citation is not in  line with the standard with  internationally acceptable  conventions. The reference section is missing some most relevant and  recent 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 study  Depth and rigor of analysis  Potential impact on theory, practice, or policy | There is advanced  levels of originality in the research findings or data.  There is exceptional evidence of new discoveries.  The research findings make a significant contribution to  the knowledge base of  the discipline and field of study.  There is a strong potential impact on theory, practice, or policy | There is high  levels of originality in the research findings or data.  There is some evidence of new discoveries.  The research findings make a significant contribution to  the knowledge base of  the discipline and field of study.  There is a high potential impact on theory, practice, or policy | There is adequate  levels of originality in the research findings or data.  There is little evidence of new discoveries.  The research findings make contribution to  the knowledge base of  the 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 field  of 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 |