CHALLENGES FACED BY FIRST YEAR STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND IN REFERENCING

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OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Statement of the problem and purpose of the study
- Research questions
- Methodology
- Results and findings
- Conclusion
- Recommendations
Referencing

Plagiarism

Quotation

Paraphrasing

The following styles of referencing are commonly used in the University of Zululand:

- Harvard style
- American Psychological Association (APA) style
It has been observed that first year student got challenges when it comes in referencing and referencing styles, that’s leads them in the lower performance in their first year level as if the quality of education in High schools does not meets the University requirements.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the challenges first year students faced in referencing their assignments at the University of Zululand.
Do the first year students understand referencing?
What challenges do they face in referencing?
What are the solutions?
This study adopted mixed methods

- Survey research

- Population - all first year students in the Faculty of Education (Bachelor of Education, Further Education Training, Intermediate, Senior and Early childhood Development and Foundation)

- Sampling - probability-sample random

- Sampling size- 65 first year students in the Faculty of Education

- Data collection instrument- structured questionnaire

- Data collection procedure

- Data analysis
1. Are the first year students understand referencing?

Participants

- 35 (87%)
- 5 (13%)
2. How students understand referencing?

Only those said yes participants:

- Referencing is the acknowledging of someone's ideas and indicating which sources you have used.
- Referencing is a way of showing what sources you have used, giving credit to the original authors.
- Referencing is a standardized method of arranging the information sources you have used in your assignment or work.
3. What Referencing styles does first year students know?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Styles of referencing styles</th>
<th>No. of participants</th>
<th>Percentage %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APA Style</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard Style</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both (Harvard and APA) style</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Have students been taught about referencing and referencing styles?

- The majority of the participants said they have been taught about referencing and referencing styles.

5. Should Students be taught about referencing and referencing styles?

- The majority of participants agreed that students should be taught about referencing and referencing styles.
The following factors were identified by the participants:

- They do not know what comes first between name and surname of the author and how to organize it.
- They are mixing referencing styles, and do not know how to differentiate them.
- Lecturers give them different styles of referencing. No uniformity.
- They get confused about how exactly to acknowledge the sources of information.
- They do not know which referencing style is the appropriate to use in their assignments.
WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?

The following were proposed from participants:

- Lecturers must teach them well about referencing and referencing styles.
- The University must provide a short lesson to all first year students that will emphasize the importance of referencing.
- Students must practice to reference not as groups but as individual.
- Students need to know that correct referencing is a norm for avoiding plagiarism.
In conclusion, the above mentioned findings revealed that there is a lack of information about referencing to first year students in the Faculty of Education.

It has also been revealed that there is no uniformity of referencing style that first year students are using in their Faculty, which leads to confusion and commit plagiarism.
The University should provide a compulsory module concerning referencing and referencing styles to all first year students in all departments since they encounter a huge problem when it comes to reference.

The Faculty of Education should put forward tutorials to assist first year students in referencing and referencing styles to reduce these challenges first year students faced in referencing their assignments.

All first year students need to have a handbooks or booklets on referencing and referencing styles.
READINGS

THANK YOU!!!