

## **Abstract**

In this study the researcher investigates what educators perceive the practices of mathematics HoDs to be in independent primary schools. A literature review was conducted and it was determined that there is a need for further research into the practices of HoDs at independent primary schools. A qualitative research approach was decided on and two case studies were done at two independent primary schools in Johannesburg. The data collected was recorded, compared and analysed to provide further insight into the perceived practices of HoDs. The findings show that there is not one set of practices of a HoD but multiple and that the practices of the HoD depend on the institution. The vision, mission and the culture of the institution, as well as the approach by senior management, will play a major role in what the practices of the HoD at that institution will be. It also leads us to conclude that arguing that there are set practices for HoDs is incorrect, instead it is the school context that will determine the practices of HoDs. From the findings the researcher attempts to provide a better understanding of the topic and makes suggestions into possible future research that could be conducted.