

**PRACTICE AND CHALLENGES OF MASTER THESIS WORK IN THE CASE OF:
SPORT SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENTS'**

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to assess the practice and challenges of 36 master degree students' thesis work', who completed their thesis in 2017/18 academic year, from Addis Ababa University, department of sport science. It is a case study which investigated the trends and most commonly observed errors employed by students. In view of the nature of the research topic, document analysis and interviews were used as a means of data collection instruments. For this purpose all 36 completed and submitted thesis works were carefully examined one by one from the research problem to the reference section in addition to the semi-structured interview conducted on 12- randomly selected interviewees. This study bench mark the university thesis writing guidelines plus legislation and also educational research books as a framework for the analysis part. Both this study and thesis examiners results revealed that 25% of the students' thesis works were below a grade of good (c+) and not to the standard. It was also found that the major challenge of the students were on the methods part (80%) and data analysis and discussion parts (90%) respectively. Besides to this, their major research design trends were descriptive survey. Simple descriptive statistics and percentage were mostly used on data analysis procedures. In conclusion, experimental study should be encouraged and rudimentary data analysis procedure should never be practiced, advanced statistics course should be included, the curriculum should be revised; advisors should discharge their responsibility and future research in different universities of the country should be conducted with similar program to identify whether the problem is nationwide or not and if it is found,, professionals in the field should seek instant solutions.