Understanding needs at the grass-roots is crucial for educational aid to meet such needs, but the existing research has mostly focused on investigating the explicit needs and neglects the process with which the needs become explicit or remain implicit. The present research, therefore, focuses on understanding the process of needs emergence in the case of teachers in Mozambique, by employing the help-seeking theory.

The dissertation has six chapters. The first chapter discusses achievements and limitations of existing research on education grass-roots needs and clarifies the gap this study intends to fill. Chapter 2 presents the conceptual framework to understand the help-seeking in education sector of developing countries. Chapter 3 explores the help-resources and the related factors by conducting a qualitative case study on ten teachers in Mozambique and builds a set of hypotheses. Chapter 4 verifies the validity of the hypotheses and develops an instrument for measuring the teachers’ help-seeking. It further examines the related factors by the help-resource preference, using survey data of 296 samples. Chapter 5, while analysing the data and interpreting the findings, establishes the process model of examining teachers’ help-seeking. The process consists of seven steps: (1) problem awareness, (2) self-esteem, (3) severity of problem, (4) previous experience of foreign aid, (5) self-disclose, (6) expected benefit of government help, and (7) acquittance in foreign project. Chapter 6 provides the summary and presents academic contributions of this research.

The applicant has published three referred and single-authored articles in international journals that are related to this dissertation.

The dissertation has demonstrated the application of the concept of help-seeking in education of developing country and has provided an analytical framework to measure teachers’ help-seeking in developing countries. Therefore, the applicant is fully qualified to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.