

## ABSTRACT

### **Suspension in Secondary Schools: A Case Study at a Secondary School in Central Trinidad**

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This study sought to analyse the effectiveness of the system of suspension as a disciplinary measure and/or how it may better serve the needs of students thus affected. It discusses the system of suspension in the context of the theoretical and legal framework that guides it, and juxtaposes it against the reality of what actually exists in a Form 4 class in a particular school environment -- a coeducational secondary school in Central Trinidad. Data were collected through interviews held with four suspended students, the principal, a dean, and the home-room teacher of the students, as well as through document analysis. The findings show that: 1) the students are of the view that there is depreciation in the relationships between staff and students, especially those students who run afoul of the school rules; 2) the students also believe that there is often an abuse of authority, which compounds the problem of student-teacher relationship; and 3) both students and teachers expressed fear of particular students.

**Keywords:** Case studies; Coeducational schools; Discipline policy; Discipline problems; Secondary school students; Suspension; Trinidad and Tobago