

ABSTRACT

The Adolescent Male and the Beginning Female Teacher: A Study of Initial Student/Teacher Experiences in an All-Boys Secondary School

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This qualitative study explored the issues and challenges of beginning female teachers under 26 years of age, at the secondary level, who are put in charge of maturing adolescent male students. Three beginning female teachers under 26 years of age, as well as three fifth-form students of an all-boys' secondary school in north Trinidad, were interviewed in an attempt to discover what coping mechanisms they employed with regard to discipline, respect, and classroom control. Data were collected from in-depth interviews and a focus group. Findings indicated that: 1) novice female teachers encounter problems peculiar to their gender and age, and 2) these problems were compounded by a lack of pre-service training, especially for young women who intend to teach adolescent male students.

Keywords: Male students; Student teacher relationship; Secondary school teachers; Secondary school students; Female teachers; Adolescents; Beginning teachers; Case studies; Trinidad and Tobago