

ABSTRACT

A Critical Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Civilian Conservation Corps on the Development of Social Skills and the Socio-Economic Future of Trainees

David R. Benjamin

This study sought to analyse the extent to which the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) impacted on the social skills development and the socio-economic future of youths who are deemed "at risk." It addressed the following questions: 1) In what ways has the current curriculum of the CCC influenced the development of social skills of trainees? 2) What is the level of employability of participants in the programme? and 3) How effective has the CCC been in catering to the socio-economic future of youths who have dropped out of the formal education system? Data were collected through interviews held with six trainees, between the ages of 18 and 23 years, who were monitored throughout the duration of their cycle in the programme. Findings revealed that while the programme had made significant impact, there was need for improvement in areas like curriculum and retention of trainees for the entire period of their cycle.

Keywords: Civilian Conservation Corps; Trainees; Vocational training programmes; Youth programmes; Skill development; Alternative education; Trinidad and Tobago