

ABSTRACT

The Experience of Teaching: A Biographical Study of Two Teachers

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This qualitative study was designed to explore the collaborative experiences of two secondary school teachers in Trinidad and Tobago. It responds to three research questions: 1) it describes how mothers and early childhood experiences influence a future in teaching, 2) positive events such as foreign travel and negative situations like classroom challenges are examined to determine the extent to which they influence teaching, and 3) the experience of dealing with administrative policy and general concern for the students affected participants' views on the education system in Trinidad and Tobago. The study uses anecdote, reflections, and self-analysis in an attempt to provide an insight into the lived experience of teaching. The main source of information was a series of in-depth conversations and interviews between the researcher and the participants. It was found that maternal influence and early childhood experiences with teaching have a profound influence on the experience of teaching in later years.

Keywords: Teaching experience; Secondary school teachers; Biographies; Trinidad and Tobago