ABSTRACT

What Are the Perceptions Among Stakeholders of the Guidance and Counseling Programme in a Coeducational Secondary School in the Victoria Education District?

Esther Collins

This qualitative case study sought to examine the perceptions among principals, teachers, and students of the guidance and counselling programme in a co-educational secondary school in the Victoria Education District in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews held with the principal, 3 teachers from different departments, and 12 students of Forms 5 and 6, as well as through observations and document analysis. The findings showed 1) concern about teachers' lack of training and skills to contribute to the programme; 2) the need for collaboration and feedback within the programme, with regard to students' matters; 3) the need for more visibility of the Guidance Counsellor; 4) the need for additional support services for the school; and 5) the need for refurbishment of the school's physical infrastructure and the provision of information about the programme.

Keywords: Coeducational schools; Guidance programmes; Counselling; Perceptions; Principals; Secondary school students; Secondary school teachers; Student attitudes; Teacher attitudes; Principal attitudes; Secondary schools; Case studies; Trinidad and Tobago