

ABSTRACT

An Examination of How Prepared Form Five Students Think They Are for the World of Work

Benignus Bitu

This qualitative case study sought to examine students' perceptions about their preparedness for the world of work. Data were collected through interviews held with six Form 5 students of a secondary school in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Findings revealed that: 1) themes related to personal development, confidence, motivation, enlightenment, uncertainty, disappointment, anger, and incompetence were related to essential issues in the world of work, such as career planning, decision making, career exploration, and job information; 2) the students held both positive and negative perceptions about their preparedness; and 3) there are some areas that students feel confident about while there are other areas that the school and other stakeholders need to address in order to ensure that students are fully prepared for the world of work.

Keywords: Student attitudes; Education and employment; Secondary school students; Case studies; Educational experience; Trinidad and Tobago