

ABSTRACT

Perceptions of the Effect of the Low Number of Male Teachers on the Discipline and Behaviour of Male Pupils at the Primary School Level

Fazila Cherie Ackbarali

This phenomenological study sought to explore the perceptions of five participants of the effect of the low number of male teachers on the discipline and behaviour of male students at the primary school level. Data were collected through interviews held with the five participants comprising a male teacher, a female teacher, a principal, a guidance officer, and a social worker, from one educational district in Trinidad and Tobago. The following themes were identified in the study: (a) lack of male teachers, (b) feminization of the profession, (c) positive male role model/male teacher attributes, (d) home environment, and (e) behaviour and discipline of male students. Among the findings were that: 1) issues such as low pay, societal perception that teaching is a job suited for females, and the emphasis on such teacher attributes as nurturing and caring, contributed to the dearth of male teachers; and 2) the participants believed that males were not attracted to teaching because hidden cultural notions tend to endorse women as caregivers.

Keywords: Male students; Primary school teachers; Perceptions; Teacher influence; Primary school students; Male teachers; Teacher shortage; Student behaviour; Discipline problems; Trinidad and Tobago