

ABSTRACT

An Ethnographic Case Study of Teachers' Perception of the Effect of School Culture on Student Behaviour at a Secondary School in South Trinidad

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This study sought to understand teachers' experience of the culture at a secondary school in South Trinidad. It also sought to determine the causes to which they attributed student misbehaviour at the school. Data were collected through interviews held with three teachers, as well as through observations. The findings revealed that disrespect for authority and school property was an observable norm of school misbehaviour. It was also determined that teachers perceived the school's culture to be unsettled and student misbehaviour to be prevalent. They attributed a number of causes to this misbehaviour, among which was that the students believed that there were no consequences to their actions, and the behaviours were thus perpetuated.

Keywords: Secondary school teachers; Perceptions; Teacher attitudes; School climate; Student behaviour; Case studies; School discipline; Secondary school students; Trinidad and Tobago