

ABSTRACT

Primary School Teachers' Experiences of Teaching Sexuality and Sexual Health Education at a Primary School in the Education District of Caroni

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This study sought to investigate the experiences of teachers as sexuality educators at a primary school in the Education District of Caroni. Data were collected through interviews held with two teachers at the school. The findings revealed that: 1) the teachers all experienced considerable anxieties about teaching Sexuality and Sexual Health education as a subject; 2) the school lacked sufficient resources to assist educators in the teaching of sexuality education; 3) there is a need for teachers to be trained in the teaching of Sexuality and Sexual Health education; 4) workshops facilitated by the Ministry of Education were inadequate since few teachers were invited to participate, and when they were trained there was insufficient time for the sharing of information with their colleagues; 5) participants believed that there is a need for the involvement of other stakeholders to facilitate Sexuality and Sexual Health education; 6) the teachers were concerned that their security was threatened since the teaching of sexuality education often elicited information from students, especially with regard to sexual abuse; 7) religious beliefs are barriers to sexuality education since it could not be openly discussed; 8) there was no parental support for teachers; and 9) teachers were concerned about the lack of sexuality education as part of the formal curriculum from Standards 1–5.

Keywords: Primary school teachers; Sex education; Health and family life education; Teacher attitudes; Trinidad and Tobago