ABSTRACT

A Case Study of the Lived Experiences of Teachers of Underachievers in a Secondary School in the North Eastern District in Trinidad

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This case study sought to determine five teachers' perspectives of underachievement at a secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago. It also sought to examine the challenges faced by these teachers as they attempt to teach students who were categorized as underachievers, and to determine whether these challenges were perceived as factors in aiding student underachievement. Data were collected through interviews. The findings revealed that: 1) the teachers faced challenges related to learning difficulties and indiscipline, both of which hindered the progress of the students; 2) there was a lack of parental involvement; 3) there was the need for a structured remedial programme; and 4) one teacher lamented the lack of specific teacher competencies to facilitate the teaching/learning process.

Keywords: Teacher attitudes; Underachievement; Case studies; Secondary school teachers; Academic achievement; Secondary school students; Educational strategies; Trinidad and Tobago