ABSTRACT

Investigation Into the Recreational Reading Habits of Adolescent Male Form Three Students in a Government, Co-Educational, Sub-Urban Secondary School

Donna M. Bennett

This study sought to investigate the recreational reading habits of adolescent male Form Three students in a government, co-educational, suburban secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews with a class of 18 high achievers and six of their parents, as well as through journal entries, reading attitude and reading interest surveys, and reading logs. The findings indicated that the students were reading graphic novels, information about football and celebrities, and cheat codes for games, but that there was no sustained reading. It was further found that given their reading medium of choice, there was little opportunity for literacy or cognitive development. The findings reflected a need to encourage the students to engage in more online activities that are better targeted to their instructional reading levels, as well as a need for teachers to assign reading assignments that allow students to demonstrate their multi-literacy competences.

Keywords: Secondary school students; Coeducational schools; Literacy methods; Reading habits; Adolescent males; Trinidad and Tobago