

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into Aliteracy Among Adolescent Students

Trumanne Guerin

This study sought to gain an understanding of aliteracy among adolescent students at a government secondary school in East Trinidad. It specifically sought to learn how students perceived their condition, regarded themselves as readers, and their attitudes regarding their reading practice. Data were collected through interviews and two questionnaires. The results of the study indicated that the students who displayed aliterate behaviour, while being aware of it, generally felt comfortable about themselves as readers, and were content with their attitudes to reading, as well as their reading practice. The general perception was that aliteracy was acceptable. The students did admit to reading engagement if the topic was of major interest, but this was more irregular than regular. It was also noted that participants were in environments that did not always place emphasis on affective or recreational reading.

Keywords: Aliteracy; Adolescents; Secondary school students; Student attitudes; Reading habits; Reluctant readers; Trinidad and Tobago