

THE USE OF THE SELF DIRECTED SEARCH (SDS) TO
ENHANCE THE VOCATIONAL CHOICES OF A GROUP OF
GRADE 9 STUDENTS IN A TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL IN
THE URBAN AREA OF JAMAICA

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ABSTRACT

The use of the self directed search (SDS) to enhance the vocational choices of a group of grade 9 students in a technical high school in the urban area of Jamaica

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The purpose of this research was to determine whether an orientation programme based on Holland's Theory of Vocational Choice was positively correlated with successful academic outcome and satisfaction with vocational choice. Students at a technical high school were divided into an experimental and control groups. Students in the experimental group were given personality assessment using Holland's Self Directed Search and were advised to choose their vocational areas according to their SDS results. Academic performance and satisfaction with choice of vocational areas were used to measure the efficacy of the orientation programme. Results showed that the students in the experimental group achieved a higher level of academic attainment and level of satisfaction with their vocational choice when compared to the control. The outcome of the research pointed to the need for vocational schools to initiate a comprehensive orientation programme before students make their choice of vocational areas.

Keywords: career choice, Self-Directed Search, Holland's Theory of Vocational Choice