

ABSTRACT

Investigating the Levels of Readiness in Career Choice Competencies of Pre-Graduating Secondary School Students

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This study sought to explore, at a secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago, students' readiness in career choice competencies in career planning, career exploration, decision making, and world of work knowledge, which were inherent in programmes that were designed to allow students to adequately make career choices in a rapidly changing world of work. Data were collected through the administration of a questionnaire to five Form 5 students, as well through an interview with, and a questionnaire administered to, a guidance officer. The findings revealed that although the students had identified career choices, their levels of readiness in all four competencies was low. Some of their concerns with their career choice related to subject requirements, uncertainties of job specifications, job security, and potential income-earning capacity.

Keywords: Secondary school students; Career choice; Career planning; Education and employment; Guidance services; Case studies; Student attitudes; Trinidad and Tobago