

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into the New Administrative Cluster System in Early Childhood Care and Education Centres in Trinidad: The Concerns of Three Administrators

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This study investigated the concerns of three early childhood care and education (ECCE) administrators regarding the new Administrative Cluster System (ACS) in ECCE centres in Trinidad. Data were collected through interviews. The findings of the study suggest that the implementation of the ACS was plagued with problems, which were due to the manner in which the innovation was implemented, particularly the lack of consultation, and factors such as the lack of staff and resources. The administrators involved in the implementation had various concerns regarding self, task, and impact, with task concerns being predominant. Further, it was found that the participants' concerns were mainly due to a lack of clarity about the change, and the absence of capacity-building structures, such as resources and training, needed to facilitate the implementation of the ACS. However, the administrators identified some positive outcomes of the change, as they saw an opportunity for growth since they had to acquire competence in time management and planning.

Keywords: Administrator attitudes; Early childhood care and education; Educational innovations; Educational administrators; Administrative Cluster System; Adoption of innovations; Trinidad and Tobago