

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into Reasons Why Talented Visual Arts Students at Harmony Secondary School Chose Not to Attempt Visual Arts in Form 4

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This study sought to determine the reasons for students' reluctance to pursue Visual Arts beyond Form 3 at a secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews with five Form 4 students who, despite commendable performances in the subject area in the lower forms, decided not to pursue it at the higher level. The themes that emerged from the study were: 1) students' ranking of art in relation to other studies, 2) the need for innovation in implementing the Visual Arts curriculum, 3) identifying abilities and interest, 4) exploring occupations in visual arts, and 5) factors to consider when deciding to choose careers in visual arts. The findings appeared to be related to two broad areas: the need for an effective career development programme with interventions that target students with artistic interests, and the need for initiatives to improve and be more creative in the delivery of the Visual Arts curriculum.

Keywords: Secondary school students; Visual arts; Arts education; Student motivation; Case studies; Trinidad and Tobago.