ABSTRACT

Self-concept, attitude to school, achievement motivation and performance on the Barbados secondary schools entrance examination

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This research was designed to inquire into the relationships between certain psycho-social variables (self-concept, attitude to school, and achievement motivation) and performance of students in the Barbados Secondary Schools Entrance Examination.

The sample comprised 308 students randomly drawn from the 10-11 age group of 10 government primary schools in Barbados. A battery of instruments tapping achievement motivation, self-concept and attitude to school was administered to the sample.

Results pointed to positive relationships between achievement motivation, self-concept, attitude to school, and academic achievement. Analysis of the data on the basis of sex, indicated that there were no significant differences in the academic performance of the boys and girls. However, the mean scores of females were significantly higher than those of the males on achievement motivation and on specific subscales of attitude to school; while significant differences were noted on specific
sub scales of self-concept in favour of boys. There was a
great similarity noted in the pattern of relationships that
emerged from the correlational analyses for the sexes.

Analysis of data involving the three socio-economic
status subsamples revealed the superior performance of the
non-manual SES group on most of the independent variables
as well as on the criterion measure. Differences were also
noted in the pattern of relationships in the correlational
analyses.

Results from Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis
revealed that all ten variables together made a significant
contribution to achievement in the BSSEE, explaining 17.6
percent of the variance, with the best predictor being
achievement motivation.

Based on these outcomes, which are to some extent
similar to international findings, it was concluded that
efforts should be made by educators to enhance the
achievement level of all students taking the Barbados
Secondary Schools Entrance Examination.