

ABSTRACT

An Investigation into Role-Reversal in the Home Between Men and Women in Rural Tobago

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This qualitative study sought to identify, describe, and explain selected factors related to role reversal between men and women in the home, with special reference to certain rural villages in Tobago. Data were collected from three couples in three rural communities in Tobago through interviews. Among the themes that emerged from the study were (a) power, (b) shared power, (c) female empowerment, (d) emasculation, (e) conflicting perspectives, (f) situational leadership, (g) collaboration, and (h) equality. The findings revealed that: 1) role reversal is a credible social phenomenon in certain rural areas in Tobago; and 2) because of role reversal, gender roles and norms associated with traditional behaviours in the households have changed.

Keywords: Role analysis; Interpersonal relationships; Rural areas; Men; Women; Gender socialization; Home environment; Tobago; Trinidad and Tobago