

ABSTRACT

A Model of Apprenticeship for Reducing Skills Shortages in Trinidad and Tobago

Petronilla Ramlal

This study addressed the development of an apprenticeship model for the reduction of skills shortages in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) craft areas in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews with 13 participants comprising three employers, four former apprentices, four teachers, and two former TVET students. Other data were collected through an examination of three Form 5 student portfolios. The findings revealed that there was dissatisfaction among the employers regarding finding skilled craft personnel, as well as among the teachers about having to deliver a curriculum about which they lacked confidence. It was also found, from examination of the student portfolios, that the students did not acquire problem-solving skills.

Keywords: Skill development; Craft workers, Educational models; Technical and vocational education and training; Education and employment; Trinidad and Tobago