

ABSTRACT

Factors Influencing the Decision of Young Men of Community 'A' to Drop Out of Secondary School

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This study investigated the contributing factors in the decision made by young men to discontinue their schooling. Data were collected through interviews with, and observations of, five male students at a secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago. The students cited suspensions for defending themselves against physical and financial bullying by other students, socio-economic factors, lack of understanding of lessons, and dislike for some of their teachers as reasons for their dropping out of school. It was also found that most of the participants were older than their peers in their respective year bodies, due to underperformance in their primary schools, which resulted in their not being promoted.

Keywords: Secondary school students; Student attitudes; Dropouts; Student sociology; Male students; Educational wastage; Male underachievement; Case studies; Trinidad and Tobago.