

Abstract

An Assessment of the Health Status and Needs of the Watermount All-Age School in St. Catherine Jamaica.

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It should be the goal of every school to be healthy. An healthy environment creates healthy students and healthy students should perform well academically.”Investment in our children ,our most precious resource, is the wisest of all investments, for today’s children’(UNICEF Pamphlet) This study analyzed data obtained from 99 students who attend the Watermount All-Age School during the period stated. Interview sheets, check list and focus group discussions were used to collect the data. The age distribution ranged from 7 - 15 years with the mean age being 11 years.

The main findings revealed that the school environment needs to be enhanced

- Effective dialogue needs to take place to heighten vendors awareness about Nutrition.
- It is clear that the school does not fully meet the WHO Criteria for a healthy school
- Students need to get more information about health at school
- Teachers are dissatisfied about conditions of the physical plant including prevention of soil erosion
- Proper partitioning of classrooms.

The study recommends that a programme be embarked on to improve

- The vendors knowledge about nutrition
- Assist in helping the school fulfill the WHO Criteria for a healthy school
- Incorporate more health information through integration of subjects
- Work be done to improve the physical structure of the school