

ABSTRACT

Wage Labour Trade Unionism and the Development of
Cooperatives - A study of Sugar Workers Cooperatives
In Jamaica

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This thesis arose from an interest in determining the effects of the wage labour structure within the sugar workers cooperatives and the trade union background of the members, on the development of cooperative commitment and ultimately on the survival of the venture in a cooperative form. The writer felt that these two factors could militate against the development of cooperative commitment. This thesis therefore focusses on these two variables but at the same time examines other factors which could also affect the development of commitment, for example, the literacy levels of the members and the decision making process within the cooperative and participation therein.

It was felt necessary to compare the sugar workers cooperatives with another type of cooperative which had no wage labour structure nor trade union background. Fishermen's cooperatives were used for this purpose.

From the data gathered and the analysis done, it

was concluded that members of fishermen's cooperatives showed a higher level of cooperative commitment than members of the sugar workers cooperatives. Literacy levels and participation in the decision making process were ruled out as the explanatory variables. It was concluded that the difference in commitment levels observed was attributable to the structural differences between the two types of cooperatives, that is the wage labour/trade union structure or lack of it.