

ABSTRACT

An Investigation of Students' Interest in Science and Their Perceptions of Using Inquiry Based Learning in Science

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This study sought to investigate students' interest in science and their perceptions of using inquiry-based learning in science at an all-girls' primary school in the St. George East Education District of Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected from questionnaires completed by 18 students and from interviews with three students. The findings revealed that: 1) inquiry-based learning can be of benefit to teachers through interactions with their students; 2) it is an effective teaching method of science instruction and stimulates student interest in the subject; and 3) teachers had not previously used inquiry-based learning and students were therefore unfamiliar with the innovation.

Keywords: Perceptions; Primary school students; Student attitudes; Inquiry based learning; Science education; Teaching methods; Trinidad and Tobago