

ABSTRACT

The Use of the Fieldtrip in the Teaching of Social Studies at the Primary Level in County Caroni

Radheka Mahabir

In order to enhance student learning in the social studies classes the teacher needs to use a variety of teaching methods. One of these methods is the fieldtrip which provides an ideal data source for the teaching of social studies.

This study addresses issues pertaining to the use of the fieldtrip in the teaching of social studies at the primary level in County Caroni. A sample of 43 randomly selected teachers participated in the project. One hundred and seventy five students who were taught by some teachers within the above sample also participated in the project. These students were chosen because fieldtrips were scheduled for them by their class teachers.

The research tools were a teachers' questionnaire, a teacher and student observation checklist and a topic checklist. They were used to record data prior to, during and after the fieldtrip. The observation instruments were used so as to verify the data obtained in the questionnaires.

The data were categorized, tallied, tabulated and analyzed using descriptive statistical measures. The overall findings support the thesis that the fieldtrip, to a great extent, is not effectively used in the teaching of social studies at the primary level in Country Caroni.

For the fieldtrip to be beneficial it must be efficiently planned, implemented and evaluated, with the pupils participating in all the phases of the fieldtrip.