

## ABSTRACT

### The Impact of Involvement and Characteristics of Fathers on Male Adolescents' Self-Esteem in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

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The purpose of this study was to find out if fathers were involved in the lives of their adolescent sons, and if so, to determine the impact of fathers' general involvement (perceived, real and satisfied) and certain fathers' characteristics i.e.: level of education, occupation, salary and age with the self-esteem of their adolescent sons.

In this study global self-esteem was measured by Rosenberg's (1965) self-esteem scale. Father's general involvement was measured by a summation of scores from 4 indicators viz: 1. Caring 2. Disciplining 3. Providing 4. Role-Modelling. The subjects were males, average age 16.28 years (range 15 -17 years) from Port of Spain. The results revealed that sons perceived all 4 fathers' roles to be important. In reality, fathers were involved. However, the sons were not satisfied with their fathers as disciplinarians and role models. Pearson's Correlational analysis provided neither positive nor negative correlations with self-esteem and the three measures of general involvement.

One-way Analysis of Variance, however, demonstrated that male adolescents whose fathers had a higher level of education and held non-manual jobs had sons who had higher self-esteem. On the other hand, a father's salary and age did not produce any significant relationships at the 0.5% level.

**Keywords:** Dianne Awong Persaud; Fathers' Involvement; Education; Self-Esteem; Male Adolescents.