

ABSTRACT

Careers in Physical Education and Sport: The Perceptions of Students in a Single-Sex School

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This is a qualitative study which looked at the perceptions of sixth form students at a single-sex school (all boys) regarding careers in physical education and sport. The rationale concerned the apparent shortage of physical education and sport professionals especially in the teaching profession, and a parallel disinterest on the part of students to pursue careers in the field upon the completion of the mandatory CSEC, PES examination. The use of reflection was therefore an intrinsic part of this study.

The methodological tool employed was the case study approach utilizing phenomenological interviewing. The researcher was solely responsible for the collection of data which included interviews and documents. The use of the qualitative paradigm was justified in relation to the problem. Hence the case study approach was proven to be commensurate with the peculiarities of this qualitative research undertaking.

Verbatim extracts of the various participants' own language were utilized. These assist in bringing to life the beliefs and opinions of the participants who drew from the many factors that shape their world. The Sport Education (SE) model proffered by Siedentop (1998) was used as the theoretical framework through which the analysis of the information was

done. Findings revealed that though students valued the experience of the CSEC examination, it did not in any way generate interest toward careers in PES.

KEY WORDS: Karen Lawrence-Ince, careers, Physical Education and Sport (PES), students' perceptions, single-sex school, Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate (CSEC).