

A B S T R A C T**A SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT****OF THE****JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM****JUDITH HARRIS-MARTIN**

This thesis presents a description and evaluation of the Junior Secondary School and makes recommendations. The study is of an ongoing socio-political phenomenon on the present situation of the Junior Secondary school system. The thesis attempts to explain and interpret the educational opportunities available at this particular stage in the twin islands' development.

The research for this thesis enquires into two particular areas. Firstly, it looks at the social psychological effects of the type of education received by students attending the Junior Secondary School. Informal interviews with students and school personnel at all levels formed an integrated part of this qualitative process. Secondly, the research attempts to show the social psychological correlation between the psychological needs and the development of the child and the type of education in the

Junior Secondary School. The two questionnaires that were administered to both students and teachers represented the source of the main quantitative research responses. A quota sample and a stratified sample of forty-one Junior Secondary School teachers and four hundred and fifty-three students from five Senior Comprehensives Schools along the east-west corridor of Trinidad participated in the study.

The major findings of the study did reveal that the Junior Secondary System of education had not fulfilled the main goals of the Draft Plan For Educational Development (1967-1983) for which it was intended. The literature review forms the theoretical base for understanding many of the students' problems and it can be used as the basis from which many of the concerns presented can be appropriately corrected.