

ABSTRACT

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF ADOLESCENTS 10-19 YEARS FROM SELECTED COMMUNITY AND CUSTODIAL SCHOOLS IN THE BAHAMAS.

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"Neither the human body nor mind, neither the intellect nor the emotions, are separate entities which function independantly of each other, on the contrary they are linked by ties which if neglected endanger the individual."

(Anna Freud).

This study provides a comparative assesement of the factors influencing psychosocial behaviour among adolescents in three specified age groups, in The Bahamas. It is directed to assist with the development of preventive public health measures and evaluation of existing services for adolescents. A knowledge, attitude and practice survey, group discussions and literature review were used for data accumulation.

This research highlights adults, parents and the media as the main contributors to factors influencing the psychosocial behaviours of adolescents. Other significant indicators are numerically shown. As a result of the findings, 'Public Health' interventions in collaboration with all concerned agencies are essential for a positive outreach to meet the needs of this underserved population and to improve existing services.