

ABSTRACT

An Investigation to Determine the Contributing Factors for the Upper Level Student Body's Perceived Refusal to Participate in Physical Activities at a Government Secondary School

Damian Ramdeo

This study investigated the factors that contributed to the senior student body's refusal to participate in physical activities at a coeducational government secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews with eight students (five male and three female) and questionnaires administered to their parents. Themes generated by the study were: 1) parental influence, 2) peer pressure, 3) academic achievement, 4) enjoyment, 5) self-esteem, 6) reward, 7) planning, 8) trust, 9) motivation, 10) obedience to parents, 11) school curriculum and subject choices, and 12) school environment and activities. The findings revealed that social, familial, personal, and educational factors contributed to the students' attitude to physical activities. It was found that the parents and the students held contradictory views on participation in these activities.

Keywords: Case studies; Secondary school students; Student attitudes; Student participation; Physical activities; Trinidad and Tobago