

ABSTRACT

Government's Involvement in Technical Vocational Education in Jamaica 1957-1985

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A study was undertaken into the effect of Government of Jamaica's Education policy on the development and operation of Technical Vocational Education, for the period 1957-1985. The study looked at some theories in the public policy making process, in order to determine a model best suited to an understanding of the Jamaican situation. A review of literature was undertaken on Technical Vocational Education policy and planning, from both national and international sources to gain an insight into the process of Technical Vocational Education. The study also explored the national historical events which led the political system to institute certain policies, in response to demands.

The collection of data was done through a survey of published statistics and a questionnaire conducted with a sample of Principals. The study focussed on the quantitative and qualitative outputs of Government's policies on Technical Vocational Education in the formal secondary school system. This was done by analysing the enrollment pattern, programme status, budgetary allocations, teacher qualifications and examination entries and results.

It was assumed that Government's educational policies did not result in any significant quantitative or qualitative outputs for Technical Vocational Education. However, it was found that Government's policies had resulted in an expansion programme,

evidenced by an unrealistic measure of quantity, and not quality outputs.

Based on the study's findings, nine recommendations were put forward to the Government of Jamaica through the Ministry of Education.