

ABSTRACT

Students' and Teachers' Perceptions of School-Based Assessment

Amy Elaine Allen

This study is a descriptive survey of students' and teachers' perceptions of internal assessment with reference to the CXC school-based assessment (SBA) at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) level. The research sought answers to students' perceptions using questionnaires, which spoke to the variables: *resources, constraints, supervision, learning activities, and attitude towards activities given* while those for teachers spoke to *resources, constraints, supervision, learning activities, attitude towards the SBA process, teaching strategies, and training*. Variables to which the principals spoke were *the early secondary school years, the provision of resources, the conducting of SBA, and the training of teachers*.

The sample comprised 92 grade eleven students entered for the May/ June 2002 CXC – CSEC examinations, 39 teachers who had taught Grades 10 and 11 and seven principals/ vice principals. The sample was selected randomly from eight co-educational high schools in Kingston and urban

St. Andrew – four traditional and four non-traditional high schools previously new secondary, and comprehensive.

Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data gathered:

- (i) Frequency tables,
- (ii) Mean ($\bar{x}$), mid point value of range (x), and standard deviation (SD) to analyze perceptions of the subjects in the survey, and
- (iii) T test to determine significant differences between the perceptions of the respondents.

The main findings indicate that students and teachers of both school types perceived SBA positively. There was no significant difference in how students and teachers of both school types perceived SBA. Principals and teachers viewed their role in preparing students for SBA positively.

Students main problems and suggestions were course related while teachers/ principals were respectively student related and teacher related. The findings are significant in that they point to concerns of students and teachers, and bring to the fore situations that schools and the CXC need to address.

Key Words: Amy Elaine Allen; School-based assessment (SBA); assessment; perception of internal assessment.