

ABSTRACT

Teachers' Perceptions of the Factors That Contribute to Students' Underperformance in Comprehension

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This qualitative study sought to discover the factors affecting students' underperformance in secondary schools in Trinidad and Tobago, and to determine whether there is a need for a comprehension skills-based intervention programme to bolster any skill deficiency that may exist. Data were collected through interviews with, and a questionnaire administered to, two teachers who were employed as remedial reading instructors. The findings revealed that students' failure was attributable to a variety of factors, thus establishing the need for a structured comprehension skills-based programme.

Keywords: Comprehension; Perceptions; Teacher attitudes; Secondary school teachers; Performance factors; Reading difficulties; Secondary school students; Teaching techniques; Trinidad and Tobago