

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into the Factors That Contribute to Low Academic Performance of Students at Two Primary Schools in the Port of Spain and Environs (East) Educational District: Students' Perspectives

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This study investigated the home and school environment factors that contribute to low academic performance of both male and female students at two urban primary schools in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews with students of Standards 3 and 4. The findings revealed no single cause for the students' poor academic performance, but certain home-related and school-related factors that are accountable for low academic performance were present in both schools. The home-related factors that affected performance were: 1) single-parent household, 2) parental support, 3) parent interest in education, 4) parental aspirations and/or expectations, 5) socioeconomic status, and 6) an unstable home environment. The school-related factors were: 1) inadequate use of resources, 2) teaching methodology, 3) low teacher expectation, and 4) teacher motivation.

Keywords: Primary school students; Case studies; Student attitudes; Performance factors; Low achievers; Academic achievement; Trinidad and Tobago