

ABSTRACT

Perceptions of Technical and Vocational Education in the Developing Countries of Antigua and St. Kitts

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This study attempted an evaluation cum perception of technical and vocational education in Antigua and St. Kitts two developing countries in the Eastern Caribbean.

Ten variables and/or groups of respondents linked with five Instruments were used as data bases to provide answers for the twelve Research Questions posed in the study. The sample of 312 respondents comprised 200 students, 32 employers, 40 teachers and 40 parents. Data bases were presented as percentages, or frequencies followed by the Chi-Square test for statistical significance.

The data showed that the majority of employers, teachers parents and students in Antigua and St Kitts were unfavourably disposed towards techvoc education, and of the resultant minority over all there were no significant differences between the scores of the respective counterpart groups of these respondents who had favourable perceptions of techvoc education. The probe of parallel sub-groupings of students was based upon territory, stream, gender, social economic status, rural/urban residence and academic achievement. There were slightly more Antiguan than Kittitian students, more techvoc than academic students, more urban than rural students, more male than female students and more of the better qualified than lesser qualified students, with favourable perceptions of techvoc education, but with differences in scores

which were generally not significant at the five per cent level.

A higher percentage of students almost twice as high from the techvoc than the academic stream found employment and of these school leavers a greater percentage of them were occupied in the technical and vocational oriented jobs, than in the blue and white collar occupations traditionally associated with an academic curriculum.

Stream made no apparent difference in the percentage of students originally registered in the academic stream, who later pursued techvoc education or academic studies at the post secondary level, but of the students who were enrolled in the techvoc streams, a relatively higher percentage of them opted for further academic studies rather than technical and vocational education.