

ABSTRACT

The Foreign Policy Implications of the Image of India in Trinidad and Tobago: Process, Construct, and Consequences

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This study examines the image of India as held by the students of the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. It analyses the cognitive and affective contents of the political, cultural, and economic aspects of image construct, the means and mechanisms of its formation, and the consequential aspect of image construct in the formulation of foreign policy. The data were collected through the administration of a questionnaire to a sample of 228 students, i.e. 8% of the total student population. Respondents from different racial groups were randomly selected through stratified quota sampling in proportion to their representation in the population, with half of those in each group being women. The variables of racial descent, religion, gender, and age were selected for the analysis of data and the statistical test of chi square was applied to determine the level of significance.

The findings revealed that there was adequate cognitive awareness of India's political structure by the majority of students. There was no significant relationship between racial descent and religion and an objective awareness of India's political structure or a subjective attitude towards it.

The aesthetic-institutional forms of culture have been preferred on the variables of racial descent and religion, while social-institutional aspects have been rejected by all. A low level of cognitive awareness has been reflected in the economic realm. However, the affective-attitudinal aspect revealed a positive relationship with the variables of racial descent and religion. The sources of image formation consist of both the formal-institutional means of mass-media as well as informal personal forms like family and ethnicity.

There is a high preference for future collaboration with India in the economic, cultural, and political realms in that order. This could influence the formulation of future foreign policy of *Trinidad and Tobago* towards India.

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