

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into the Perceptions Major Stakeholders Have of the Juvenile Penal Rehabilitative System of Trinidad and Tobago: A Case Study of the Youth Training Centre

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This case study sought to determine the perceptions of key members of staff of the Youth Training Centre in Trinidad and Tobago about the effectiveness of the system of restorative justice that governs the rehabilitative process at the Youth Training Centre in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews, observations, and document analysis. Findings revealed that restorative justice is effective because it instructs the offender in behaviour alteration, and facilitates his rehabilitation and subsequent re-integration into society. Additionally, it was also found to be effective in reducing the rate of recidivism among offenders. The challenges identified relate to negative attitudes/perceptions on the part of society, as well as structural inadequacies with its implementation.

Keywords: Correctional institutions; Restorative justice; Case studies; Perceptions; Youth Training Centre; Prison officers; Trinidad and Tobago