

ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study was to determine the influence of selected social and cultural factors on the occupational aspirations of youth at selected rural secondary schools in South Trinidad.

Four concepts which form the theoretical basis for this study were explored in some detail. These are adolescence, social stratification, socialization and occupational choice. Then, the literature was surveyed on various factors known to affect the occupational aspirations of youth in different societies.

By means of a two-part questionnaire, information was obtained on the occupational aspiration levels and selected social and cultural factors known to affect the values and attitudes of youth and hence their occupational aspirations.

Systematic random sampling was used to select 300 fifth-form students from four secondary schools in County Victoria East (Rural Victoria).

Firstly, a descriptive report was presented on the values and attitudes of youth and factors that affect them. Then, for testing the hypotheses, Chi-Square analysis was done with selected social and cultural factors as the independent variables and occupational aspiration levels as the dependent variable.

The analysis indicated that the occupational aspiration levels related significantly to father's level of educational achievement; mother's level of educational achievement; father's occupational status; socio-economic status and level of mass media participation.

It was also concluded that occupational aspiration levels were not significantly related to the following factors: ethnic origin; religious affiliation; mother's job; strength of encouragement from father to pursue a particular occupation; strength of encouragement from mother to pursue a particular occupation; strength of encouragement from best friends to pursue a particular occupation; strength of encouragement from school teachers to pursue a particular occupation; number of older brothers and sisters and number of older brothers and sisters who graduated from high school. I. Computer Centre.

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