

ABSTRACT

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Poverty is increasing in the world, in general and the Caribbean, in particular. This alarming trend is one, which requires new and innovative techniques that will succeed in effectively reducing circumstances of poverty.

This thesis examines the potential of income generating, community based projects (CBPs) as an avenue for poverty reduction and community empowerment and as integral parts of sustainable development. It reviews three case studies of CBPs in Latin America and the Caribbean and proceeds to focus on two CBPs in Trinidad and Tobago. The Trinidad and Tobago projects are examined to reveal their strengths, weaknesses and lessons, which may be learned in the future management of CBPs.

The thesis concludes by identifying CBPs as a powerful tool, if used correctly, in reducing poverty particularly in rural areas. The roles of NGOs, the public and private sectors are suggested as part of a comprehensive strategy towards sustainable development.

Keywords: Jasmine Gopaul; sustainable development; poverty; community based projects.