

ABSTRACT

The present investigation explored the relationship existing between Self-Acceptance and Acceptance of Significant Others and to certain Home and School Environmental Variables among a group of 359 Grade Seven students drawn from a sample of Jamaican High and New Secondary Schools in the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew.

Data from test batteries subjected to the following major analytic procedures showed:

1. Student 't' tests

- No significant differences between Male and Female groups regarding Self-Acceptance and Acceptance of Significant Others, but female students gained more Common Entrance passes, expressed more positive social learning experiences and felt that they were generally more accepted than male students.
- High School students were significantly more self-accepting than New Secondary School students being significantly higher also on all variables in Early School Dimension, Perception of Significant Others and Social Learning Dimension.

2. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Matrix

- There were many statistically significant correlations among independent variables, ten of which correlated significantly with the criterion. These were: Common Entrance Pass, Early School Views, Acceptance of Parents, Acceptance of Siblings, Acceptance of Peers, Acceptance of Teachers, Perception of Parental Acceptance, Perception of Sibling Acceptance, Acceptance of Peer Acceptance, Perception of Teacher Acceptance.

3. Oblique Factor Analysis

- Two factors emerged. Factor I classified as the *Acceptance Factor, accounting for 70% of the total explained variance*, and Factor II the *Sibling Factor accounted for 30% variance*.

4. Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis

- Perception of Parental Acceptance emerged the best predictor of Self-Acceptance and this was the case for the Total, Female and New Secondary School samples. The second best predictor was Perception of Peer Acceptance and this was noted for the High School sample. For the Male sample, Acceptance of Parents emerged as the best predictor for this group.