

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into the Correctional Educational Programme at a Male Juvenile Correctional Institution in Trinidad and Tobago

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This qualitative case study sought to investigate the correctional education programmes at a male juvenile correctional institution in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews with two inmates and 5% of staff members. The study specifically addressed the research questions: (a) What conception of education is offered to juvenile offenders in correctional facilities, (b) To what extent is this education suited to their needs as juvenile offenders, and (c) How should an education programme for juvenile offenders be conceptualized? Findings revealed that: 1) inmates require special individualized programmes rather than whole-group instruction, 2) academic placement of inmates needs to be effected by proper methods of assessment rather than by teacher and administrative staff observations, and 3) there are apparent misconceptions among staff about the components of a correctional education programme.

Keywords: Alternative education; Correctional institutions; Correctional education; Male students; Adolescent males; Youth programmes; Programme evaluation; Case studies; Trinidad and Tobago