

## ABSTRACT

### **Primary School Principals' Preparedness for Coping With HIV Seropositive Students in the North Eastern Education District of Trinidad and Tobago**

*Gail Austin-Pinder*

This qualitative case study sought to explore, understand, and describe the extent to which personal attitudes, and the knowledge or lack of information about HIV/AIDS influence the preparedness of primary school principals to cope with HIV seropositive students who are admitted to their schools in the North Eastern Education District of Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews held with a purposively selected sample of six principals. The major finding was that principals lacked training in, and were not aware of, the concept of "universal precautions" for HIV/AIDS, and had reservations about the willingness of teachers to accept HIV-positive students in their classes.

**Keywords:** Principal attitudes; Primary school principals; Primary school students; HIV/AIDS; Knowledge level; Student welfare; PLHA; Trinidad and Tobago