

ABSTRACT

An Institution and Its Effects: A Case Study of the Experiences of Two Students at a Juvenile Correction Institution and Their Perception About How Theses [sic] Experiences Are Preparing Them to Transition Into Society

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This study sought to understand the experiences of students at a juvenile residential institution where they are expected to be prepared for re-entry into society, and to investigate the ways in which the institution is preparing them for transition into society. Data were collected from two male juvenile offenders, caregivers, instructors, and administrative staff of a correctional institution in Trinidad and Tobago, through interviews, observations, and document analysis. Although there were opportunities to develop academic and trade skills, as well as opportunities for sport and spiritual and personal development, students were not aware of the support services that were available to them upon discharge from the institution, and there were no supports to ensure successful transition into society. Results showed that although both boys were preparing to leave the institution, the quality of their family life experiences caused them to negotiate their identity and prospects for the future differently. Caregivers' attitudes and remarks were important determinants in how the boys perceived their self-esteem and self-image.

Keywords: Male delinquents; Case studies; Correctional institutions; Rehabilitation programmes; Trinidad and Tobago