

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into Anger and Violence Among Pre-Adolescent Girls at a Suburban Primary School

Alicia Payne-Ward

This case study sought to identify the underlying factors which contributed to the anger that led to violence, in a heterogeneous group of 20 Standard 4 girls at a primary school in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Data were collected through essays, interviews, and the administration of a questionnaire. The students elucidated the following themes: 1) lying/spreading rumours, 2) bullying/teasing, 3) teacher disrespect, 4) poor parental communication, 5) conflict among peers, 6) verbal abuse, and 7) physical violence. The findings revealed that negative relationships and interactions with peers, teachers, and parents were the underlying causes of anger that precipitated violence among the students.

Keywords: Primary school students; Adolescent girls; Female students; Case studies; Violence; Behaviour problems; Social factors; Student behaviour; Trinidad and Tobago