

ABSTRACT

An Investigation Into Students' Perception of Physical Education in the Lower Form Classes at an Urban Secondary School in Trinidad and Tobago

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This study investigated students' perceptions about physical education (PE) at an urban secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through a survey administered to 93 students, as well as through a focus group interview with a purposive sample of six students of the school. The findings revealed that the students indicated that if they were not selecting PE for Form 4 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) classes, or their career path did not involve PE, they had no interest in participating in the classes. Most of them understood the concept of PE but, due to inhibiting factors, were unwilling to participate in the practical sessions. It was also found that lack of proper planning on the part of teachers contributed to the negative perceptions of the students.

Keywords: Secondary school students; Student attitudes; Perceptions; Urban schools; Physical education; Case studies; Trinidad and Tobago.