

ABSTRACTTHE PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHERS AND PARENTS  
ABOUT FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

JASMIN A. MANOOSINGH

The study was an attempt to bring together current ideas and attitudes of parents and teachers toward a family life education programme being based in school.

The sample was selected from eighty teachers from ten (10) schools in the county of Victoria, and thirty (30) parents randomly selected from two of the ten schools with parents-teachers associations.

An instrument based upon the research questions was designed to yield the necessary data for completion of the research. Pilot testing of the instrument revealed that teachers and parents showed several inconsistencies in their responses to some questions dealing with sensitive issues. The instrument was then revised to produce a modified type of Likert scale, which could further accommodate such contradictions. Ten (10) parents and teachers were also interviewed. The data was analyzed quantitatively to include frequency counts and percentages and comparisons were made between the responses of teachers and those of parents.

Both teachers and parents indicated that all three groups - teachers, parents and community should participate in the Family Life Education of children. Educational methods desired by parents and teachers for teaching this subject ranged from formal lectures to discussions, simulation exercises and role playing.

Some topics parents and teachers desired as being most desirable to be taught included moral education, prevention of child abuse, family relationship and drug education. Teachers were also concerned over their own lack of training and available resources to teach the subject. Both parents and teachers thought that infants should not receive much sex education.

The research indicates that the teaching of Family Life Education is problematic. Teachers need further training to teach family life and that certain topics should be included in the curriculum to make the Family Life Education more relevant to our changing society.

#### CHAPTER IV - DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- THE INTERVIEW GUIDE	80
- THE INTERVIEW	91