

## **ABSTRACT**

### **The Opinions of TVET Training Providers on the Role of a Sector Body as an Overarching Organization for TVET in Trinidad**

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This study investigated the reasons for the lack of respect shown by providers of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) towards the National Training Agency (NTA) as the overarching organization for TVET in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews with three registered training providers, as well as eight providers who were at different stages of accreditation. Among the findings were that: 1) the training providers complained of outdated occupational standards and the lack of quality assurance mechanisms to support monitoring and surveillance of the centres; 2) the contributions of the training providers, via feedback forms or focus groups, regarding the unsuitability of the regional occupational standards, seemed either to have been ignored or not acted upon by the NTA; 3) there was a lack of professionalism among employees of the NTA and an apparent trend of untimeliness in the delivery of their products and services; and 4) the NTA seemed to be falling short of their vision, mission, and core objectives. The general finding was that the lack of respect by TVET training providers for the NTA appeared to be an end result of the NTA's inability to "put their house in order".

**Keywords:** Technical and vocational education and training; Role analysis; Training programmes; Attitudes; National Training Agency; Trinidad and Tobago