

ABSTRACT

ADVANCING CARICOM'S GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOUR REGIME:

A COMPARATIVE EXAMINATION OF THE ROLE & CAPABILITIES OF THE CSME FOCAL POINT IN CARICOM MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES & LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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This dissertation takes into account the several challenges posed by CARICOM's approach to implementing and governing its free movement of labour regime within the CARICOM Single Market. CARICOM's continuous application of its 1989 strategy of open regionalism as a survival mechanism to cope with the demands of neoliberalism continues to neglect the human resource development dimension which remains critical to small developing island states such as those in the Caribbean. Due to the diversity of theories applicable to Caribbean regional integration ranging from institutionalism, inter-governmentalism to functionalism, the main representatives of Member States, the regional leadership, continue to push and pull between these approaches as they seek to find an appropriate coping mechanism within the neoliberal environment. This thesis presents a critical examination of the role of the regional integration technocratic elite, namely the CSME Focal Point, through a neorealist lens to determine their roles and capabilities to advance labour mobility within the CSME. With the development of a CSME Focal Point Functionality Scorecard as a form a measurement index within Caribbean regional integration, it was recognized that that there is a strong, positive relationship to a country's governance and implementation of the free movement of labour regime and the CSME Focal Point's functionality. This research affirms that the capabilities of a country's CSME Focal Point predict their country's commitment to implementing the free movement of labour regime within the CSME. The challenges arising from this regional framework as well as the critical processes involved in the implementation of the full free movement of labour within CARICOM are explored.

Keywords: Kai-Ann Skeete; Regional Integration; Open Regionalism; CSME; Free Movement of Labour; CSME Focal Point.