

ABSTRACT

Adolescent Interface With Television And The Internet Subjective Responses To Objective Possibilities

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The investigation is a multi-site embedded case study of Barbadian adolescents' interface with television and the Internet. The sample comprises 4th, 5th and 6th form students in 4 purposively selected Government Secondary Schools in the parish of St. Michael, Barbados, West Indies. Data obtained from focus group discussions and semi-structured questionnaires provide grounded evidence which is used to develop a profile of adolescent interface with television and the Internet, as well as to examine the implications of adolescent exposure to the international and deviant subcultural communities via these media. The conceptual underpinning is *sociocultural connectedness*, a concept operationalized as awareness of, orientation towards, and participation in the local, international and subcultural communities. Within the framework of *Capital* as conceptualized by Pierre Bourdieu (1977) and *Human Capital Theory* as formulated by Theodore Schultz (1969), television and the Internet are understood as potential tools for investment in human capital and Barbadian adolescents are conceptualized as the potential human capital resource base in a Small Island Developing State.

Keywords: Veronica Charlotte Evelyn; Pierre Bourdieu; Theodore Schultz; Capital; Human Capital; Television; Internet; Small Island Developing State.