

ABSTRACT

Globalisation and Educational Reform in Barbados.

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The concept of globalisation has grown in significance in the last decade.

Many wide-ranging and contested characterizations and effects have been ascribed to globalisation. One such effect is its impact on the economy and by extension education. This influence is enhanced as globalisation has also brought concomitant changes in technology, communication, trade and work organisation.

This paper with the use of a questionnaire, examines what some educational stakeholders in a Barbadian secondary school understand the term globalisation to mean and their perceptions of its impact on educational policy and planning. The reform initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Education in Barbados in the last decade are considered and the stakeholders' views of the appropriateness of these reforms in light of the challenges of globalisation are also surveyed.

The study indicated that the stakeholders were capable of defining the term globalisation and that their understanding of the term was similar to each other and to that of the literature. Though their knowledge of the reforms varied, there was general agreement about the need for and nature of the reforms in light of demands of globalisation. The main reforms that had been implemented thus

far were essentially considered to be useful in view of the challenges posed by globalisation.