

THE ABSTRACT

This investigation used a case study approach to examine some of the problems leading to the high incidence of teacher attrition in Jamaica today.

The instruments used were:-

1. An interview schedule each for former and practising teachers (FTs and PTs).
2. A questionnaire for both groups.
3. The Gordon's Survey of Interpersonal Values (SIV)

The data obtained from 17 respondents (8 former teachers and 9 practising teachers) were examined in tabular and graphic forms, using mean scores to make group comparisons. Responses from the interviews, augmented by information from the questionnaires, were used to compile the case outlines. Personality profiles were also constructed using the Gordon SIV.

The overall picture that emerged from the investigation was that:-

1. Practising teachers appear reasonably satisfied with the work they have to do. Major areas of satisfaction centred around a fondness for, and the urge to help young people.
2. Inadequate salary was a dissatisfaction voiced by both practising and former teachers and this factor fuelled attrition from the profession.

3. Teachers' morale was lowered from lack of promotional facilities and from being by-passed in the decision making process.
  
4. Poor working conditions - lack of equipment and supplies, too large classes, coupled with the absence of public support were the bane of many teachers.