

ABSTRACT

This study compared the Academic Achievement, Self Concept, Personal Adjustment, and Social Adjustment of two groups of High School girls in their Fifth Form year. Late Entrants represented the group who gained admission on the basis of selection in the Grade Nine Achievement Test at fourteen plus years of age, while Early Entrants represented the group which was selected by the Common Entrance Examination at the age of eleven plus years.

Part One contains the background to the problem of adjustment and achievement and includes discussion on the educational system, social class structure and the adolescent personality. An examination of the theories of Self Concept, Personal and Social Adjustment which influence the research, as well as some related empirical evidence are presented. Part Two contains the research design including instruments and their administration, while Part Three includes presentation and interpretation of data with general conclusions arrived at as a result of findings.

Questionnaires including a Self Concept Rating Scale, Peer Rating Scale of Social Adjustment, Sociograms, the Rotter Incomplete Sentences Blank and the results of the General Certificate of Education Ordinary level as the Criterion Measure of Academic Achievement, were employed.

It was discovered that Late Entrants had exhibited more favourable Self Concepts and levels of Personal Adjustment, were reasonably socially adjusted and had achieved a lower academic standard while Early Entrants had displayed less favourable Self Concepts and levels of Personal Adjustment, were higher achievers and reasonably socially adjusted. For the majority of Ss, Social adjustment was related to Achievement, though Self Concept and Personal Adjustment were only partially so. It was further noted that Late Entrants who were taught together in one Form had performed significantly better than their counterparts who had been "integrated" into other Fifth forms, but "isolation" and "integration" had had no significant effect on the Self Concepts and Personal Adjustment of this group.