

ABSTRACT

THE PERSONAL ADJUSTMENT OF JAMAICAN TEACHER TRAINEES AND ITS INTERRELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PERSONALITY VARIABLES

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This research sought to determine the level of personal adjustment manifested in a sample of Jamaican trainee teachers, and to ascertain relationships between the criterion and academic self concept, self esteem, emotional maturity, anxiety, age, sex and academic qualifications. Data were collected from a sample of 170 second year Ss attending one of five teachers' colleges of different types – Primary and Secondary, both “Mixed” and “Unmixed”.

The main findings were as follows:

1. The Student's “t” and ANOVA statistical techniques revealed that:
 - a) Although the sample as a whole was adjusting relatively well, the Primary “Unmixed” group manifested more adequate adjustment than any other group.
 - b) Male Ss tended to exhibit more wholesome levels of personal adjustment than females.
2. Pearson product-moment analyses identified the following results:
 - a) Personal adjustment correlated significantly with anxiety, academic self concept and self esteem, for the total sample, female Ss and Ss in “Unmixed” colleges (both Primary and Secondary). This also obtained for those in the “Mixed” college.
 - b) It was established that the higher the level of anxiety, the lower the degree of personal adjustment demonstrated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- c) For the total sample, academic self concept correlated significantly with self esteem and emotional maturity, and both surfaced as negative correlates of personal adjustment and anxiety.
- d) Among male Ss, self esteem related positively to academic self concept, emotional maturity and age; while low anxiety was associated with sound personal adjustment, and relatively lower academic qualifications. For females, several significant correlations were manifested among low anxiety and high academic self concept, self esteem, personal adjustment and emotional maturity.
- e) A similar pattern also held when the data were examined by college type. However, emotional maturity did not feature as a significant correlate of anxiety in the matrix for Secondary "Unmixed" Ss or Ss in the "Mixed" college.

Educational implications relative to the adjustment level of trainee teachers in Jamaica were highlighted, and a number of recommendations, largely addressing the need to foster sound adjustment of those in the teaching profession, was proposed.