

ABSTRACT

An Investigation into the Experiences and Perceptions of Three Students in a Rural Primary School in Caroni

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This study sought to explore the perceptions and experiences of three Standard 3 students at a primary school in Caroni, Trinidad and Tobago, regarding the use of steelpan playing to improve their reading performance. Data were collected through questionnaires to the students, interviews with teachers and their parents, as well as through observations and document analysis. It was concluded that the employment of the steelpan as a motivational tool to improve reading performance was a positive experience for the students. It afforded them the opportunity to attain the goals of learning music and acquiring an acceptable degree of competency in steelpan playing, while realizing an improvement in their reading proficiency.

Keywords: Steelpan; Primary school students; Student attitudes; Case studies; Reading instruction; Teaching techniques; Rural schools; Music education; Perceptions; Trinidad and Tobago