

## Abstract

### An Evaluation of Three Magnet Schools in the South East Education District of Trinidad and the Implications for the Future of These Schools.

Renwick Paul

This study examined the status of three magnet schools in the South East Education District of Trinidad to determine their feasibility and inform their progress. A collective case study was conducted to determine from the perspectives of principals, middle managers, parents and students, the extent to which the target schools were fulfilling their purpose. Interviews and documentary analysis were used to collect data from participants who were purposively selected.

The first research question asked about the distinguishing features of the targeted magnet schools. All schools had unique programs that were offered during the August vacation or, as with one school, timetabled during the regular school day. The targeted schools (T1, R2, and M3) had improved infrastructure and resources, diverse curriculum opportunities, conducive learning environments and dedicated funding.

The second research question asked about the progress schools made towards achieving their goals. T1 and M3 had documented goals, excellent school tone and

disciplined students. The T1 and R2 schools did well in relation to the acquisition of full CXC certificates. Students at M3 were not as successful in this regard.

The third research question explored the factors that influenced the success of these schools. The more successful schools had popular themes, effective planning committees, special curricula, advertised vigorously, had strong leadership and dedicated teachers. Meanwhile, lack of stakeholder involvement, funding, transport uncertainties and lack of MOE support negatively affected schools.

The fourth research question sought answers regarding the contributions schools made towards educational development locally. All schools were making a difference in their respective communities, producing national leaders and students pursuing tertiary education.

Finally, this study would assist stakeholders forge a way forward for magnet schools. This study should influence public policy regarding the implementation of innovative education programs, and add to the body of knowledge nationally.

**Keywords:** Renwick Paul; Magnet School; evaluative case study; Trinidad.