

ABSTRACT

Student Motivation and Performance Behaviours Among Barbadian Adolescents

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Reported low levels of academic achievement have captured the attention of local educators. Research points to motivation as the key to students' participation in their own learning. However, student motivation as a mitigating factor in academic attainment has been largely overlooked. Instead, many measures infer motivation from student tasks after completion. It is proposed that student motivation initiates and sustains achieving behaviour and is mediated by personal, family, school, and other social factors; student performance is defined as engaging in behaviours such as active participation in class, completing homework, and participation in extra - curricular activities.

Student motivation and student performance behaviours were measured by the student motivational factor scale (SMF) and the student performance behaviour scale (SPF), designed by the researcher. The survey method was employed and data were analysed from 452 self-report questionnaires from a sample of Barbadian adolescents attending public educational institutions.

Results support similar findings of significant correlations between student motivation, its dimensions, and performance. Parent and family factors, peer influences, behaviour motivation, and attribution explained 38% of the variance in performance. Some gender differences were observed. Peer influences mediated school teacher effects among low motivation-low performance, but did not influence their counterparts. SES factors discriminated between both motivation, and performance behaviours levels. These findings can inform education planning aimed at raising levels of achievement. Further research using the SMF and SPF can suggest the best interventions which may successfully enhance student motivation which will lead to achieving behaviours and education success.

Keywords: Jennifer Leon Crichlow: Barbadian adolescents; student motivation; performance behaviours; Student motivation measure; performance measure.