

## **ABSTRACT**

### **An Investigation Into Some of the Contributing Factors and Detrimental Effects of Drug Abuse as a Health Problem Among Secondary School Students in the Victoria Educational District of Trinidad and Tobago**

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This study sought to identify factors that contribute to drug abuse among secondary school students in the Victoria Educational District of Trinidad and Tobago, and to highlight the effects of drug consumption upon students' physical and mental health, and their social well-being. Data were collected, through interviews, from three students, one parent, and one Mental Health Officer. Findings indicated that: 1) drugs had adverse effect on students' mental, physical, and social health; 2) drug abuse is a major contributing factor to deviant behaviour among students; 3) the effects of drug abuse in the school mirror those at a national level; and 4) students need to be taught life skills as a preventative measure against drug abuse.

**Keywords:** Drug abuse; Student sociology; Student behavior; Secondary school students; Trinidad and Tobago