

ABSTRACT

Students' Perceptions of Indiscipline at Three Primary Schools in One Educational District in Central Trinidad

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This qualitative case study sought to explore students' perceptions of indiscipline in three primary schools in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected through interviews held with 36 students from Standards 3 and 4. The findings revealed that: 1) some students from all three schools try to justify their negative behaviours by placing a large percentage of the blame on the actions and influence of their peers; 2) students from all three schools recognized the influence of the home environment, and the role models presented there, upon their own attitudes and behaviours; 3) most students of one school and some from another felt that the community played a part in influencing their behaviour; 4) students of two schools indicated that the media, in the form of television shows, video games, and the Internet, contribute to shaping their behaviour; 5) students of two schools suggested that teachers play a part in perpetuating misbehaviour in students; and 6) students of one school did not consider the media or teachers as being perpetrators of student indiscipline.

Keywords: Primary school students; Case studies; Perceptions; Discipline problems; Delinquency cases; Indiscipline; Primary schools; Student attitudes; Trinidad and Tobago