

Religion and Delinquency in Trinidad and Tobago

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Abstract

This study investigated the relationship between religiosity, spirituality and delinquency among secondary school students in Trinidad and Tobago. This study utilized the survey method to gather data from a population of secondary school students regarding student religiosity, delinquency, sexual behaviour, as well as other socio-demographic variables. A probability sampling technique was used to select the schools that participated in the study. Questionnaires were administered at fifteen different schools in order to cover the three different types of schools, (Denominational, Senior Comprehensives and Government Secondary schools), from each of the districts studied. It yielded a total sample size of 1497 students. The various hypotheses in the study were tested through two methods, Multiple Regression models and Tests about Means [the t test of significance & ANOVA]. Results indicated that students who are more religious, i.e. who have internalised religious morals and principles, are less likely to engage in delinquent activities. Results have also indicated that schools, that incorporate a higher level of religiosity in the school culture and climate, have a lower rate of delinquency. High academic achievement and high levels of parental religiosity also contribute to the decline in delinquency among adolescents.

Keywords: *Religiosity, delinquency, secondary school students, Trinidad and Tobago.*