

International Organizations and their Educational Mandates: Challenges for Small Islands in the Caribbean Region

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For decades now, structural adjustment programs of international donor organisations have permeated and configured the socio-political and economic landscapes of Caribbean territories. In particular, the education-driven reform mandates of these organisations pervade discourse regarding policy articulation and implementation in systems of education across this region. This theoretical paper examines the mandates of international organisations in the context of significant socio-historical, political and geo-economic complexities unique to a particular group of islands in this region. The paper unfolds through a critical analysis of the literature on economic globalisation, internationalisation of education and Caribbean history, and against the researcher's own positioning as a Caribbean citizen, educator and researcher. The research methodology guiding this inquiry entails a vertical case study of the Caribbean region through a postcolonial theoretical framework of inquiry, using Caribbean nation states and international donor organisations as the main units of analysis. The paper argues for an ontological and epistemological reassessment of the nature and scope of international lending organisations' involvement in the economic and educational affairs of small islands in the Caribbean region.

Key words: international organisations, economic globalisation, neo-liberalism, structural adjustment programs, international education mandates, Caribbean education reform, OECS small islands

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