

ABSTRACTS

Volume 34 No. 1 March 2009

Socio-economic Determinants of Infant and Child Mortality in Haiti

by Ronald M. Gordon

This article explores the socio-economic determinants of infant and child mortality in Haiti, which were identified as maternal education, age, residence and income, by a logistic regression analysis of Haiti's Demographic Health and Survey data for 2000. Incremental increase in education, by itself, was statistically significant in reducing the likelihood of the incidence of childhood mortality by 20.8%. With the inclusion of residence and controlling for age, an incremental increase in education results in an 18.6% decrease in the probability of childhood mortality, while incremental increase in age leads to a 15.5% increase in childhood mortality. Possession of a composite of consumer items, durables and utilities access was used as a proxy for income. This proxy income variable indicated that an incremental increase in income could reduce childhood mortality by 29.9%.

Pages: 1-19

Key words: Haiti, infant and child mortality.

The Potential Impact of a Minimum Wage on Poverty and Income Distribution in Barbados

by Rudolph Browne, Winston Moore and Shernel Thompson

This article explores the fact that labour legislation in Barbados only covers a small proportion of the employed labour force. A national minimum wage has therefore been suggested as a means to guarantee some minimum standard of living for workers. To inform discussion on the topic, this study uses micro simulation techniques to assess the potential impact of various levels of the minimum wage rate on poverty and inequality in Barbados. The results obtained from the simulation exercise suggest that once employment effects are taken into account, the impact of a minimum wage on poverty and inequality are likely to be small.

Pages: 20-41

Key words: minimum wage, poverty, inequality.

Media Accounts of the Integration and Settlement of 'Island' Immigrants in Anglophone Caribbean States

by Carl E. James

This article explores the extent to which regional immigrants who have settled in Barbados and Antigua are "happily" integrating into these societies. Using newspaper accounts, it discusses the perceptions, interactions and exchanges among nationals and immigrants in relation to the cultural, social and political contexts and discourses of the respective societies. It was found that the social and political situation in the islands, and the skepticism and ambivalence of immigrants and citizens toward each other, produced tension and angst among them. Nationals expected immigrants to assimilate – to become like them, to settle for similar pay and working conditions, and to participate in the political process in the ways nationals do. Immigrants expected their practices and aspirations to be accepted as they tried to make life in their new society.

Pages: 42-70

Key words: immigrants, integration, settlement, Antigua, Barbados, Caribbean, newspapers, letters to the editors, employment, judicial system, elections.

POLICY FORUM

The Global Crisis: The Way Forward for Barbados and the Rest of the Caribbean

This report is based on the proceedings of a Policy Forum on the Global Economic Crisis delivered at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. This forum was sponsored by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) and the Barbados Economics Society (BES). The report was prepared by Christine Barrow, SALISES, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados and Managing Editor, Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies.

Pages: 71-77.

Volume 34 No. 2 June 2009

Universal Secondary Education and Society in the Commonwealth Caribbean

by Prof. Errol Miller

This paper presents three general philosophical perspectives of secondary education and explores the specific philosophies that influence secondary education in the Caribbean. The author traces the historical development of secondary education in the region and brings us to the introduction and expansion of universal secondary education. He argues for a unifying philosophical perspective on secondary education for the Commonwealth Caribbean that would contribute to the competitiveness of the region in the global economy. Finally, the author offers suggestions as to how universal secondary education could be implemented on a regional level.

Pages: 3-24

Key words: universal secondary education, philosophies of education, Commonwealth Caribbean.

Universal Secondary Education in the OECS: Some Views on the Curriculum

by Prof. Winston King

Various international initiatives in education, followed by the development of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Reform Strategy (1991) led to initiatives in Universal Secondary Education (USE) in the countries of the sub-region.

As expected, approaches have differed from country to country. However, the common purposes have been to provide access, modified curriculum and trained teachers for the education of all children at secondary education level.

Several obstacles have been identified, for example improper planning and ineffective implementation in all aspects, with the possible exception of access.

There needs, therefore, to be more monitoring, evaluation and support of various types to make the reform effective and sustainable. Every effort must be made to sustain the reform for the benefit of all children in the sub-region.

Pages: 25-53

Key words: universal education, secondary education, curriculum, curriculum development, educational change.

The Caribbean Examinations Council: Leading and Facilitating Transformation in Secondary Education

by Prof. Stafford Griffith

The article discusses ways in which the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) contributed to the transformation of the Caribbean secondary education system. The contribution of the CXC to the efforts made in the region to move towards universal secondary education is highlighted. The article notes the ways in which the Council helped to assure both the relevance and the quality of secondary education in the region even as it helped to broaden access. It also discusses the broadening of opportunities by the Council for secondary school graduates to pursue tertiary education.

Pages: 54-73

Key words: Caribbean Examinations Council; educational; transformation; universal secondary education.

Universal Access to Secondary Education in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

by Dr. Veronica Marks

In St. Vincent and the Grenadines universal secondary education (USE), instituted by 2005, was one of the major pillars of the education revolution intended to propel social and economic advancement. Grounded in the philosophy that education was central to the development of human capital, it was recognized that increased access to secondary education would address the issue of equality of opportunity and support the national goal of a university graduate in every household by 2020. A phased model of implementation was adopted. However, policy implementation required extensive support in critical areas such as physical infrastructural development, curriculum review and development, pedagogy, teacher training and the provision of resources. Implementation was fraught with challenges and the impact necessitated alternative interventions. At the same time, the process underscored the need for a holistic approach to unprecedented reform efforts if quality education is the desired goal.

Pages: 74-92

Key words: education revolution, policy, philosophy, implementation model, grouping, quality, interventions.

Literacy Development and the Role of the Eastern Caribbean Joint Board of Teacher Education

by Dr. Joel Warrican

This article discusses the Eastern Caribbean Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE) as an agency that is ideally positioned to implement and support regional educational initiatives. It presents the promotion of literacy development among adolescents as an example of what is possible. With the advancement of universal secondary education, the levels of competency in literacy among secondary school students are more varied and teachers are faced with the challenge of providing effective instruction for all students. This article discusses how the JBTE can contribute to the development and support of all secondary teachers as they seek to improve the literacy skills of their charges and ensure that they benefit fully from the opportunity to pursue secondary education.

Page: 93-112

Key words: Eastern Caribbean Joint Board of Teacher Education; literacy development; teacher development; universal secondary education.

Volume 34 No. 3 September 2009

How Important are Cash Flows for Firm Growth in Barbados?

by Dr. Winston Moore, Dr. Justin Robinson and Ms. Tracey Broome

Firm liquidity can be particularly important for firms that are not able to access capital from traditional financial market institutions. The current study estimates a dynamic model of firm growth in Barbados, using data on companies listed on the Barbados Stock exchange between 1997 and 2007, to evaluate the impact of firm liquidity. The estimated results suggest that a one percent rise in cash flow ratios leads to an increase in firm growth of between 0.3 and 0.6 percent. This relationship was robust to the addition of control variables, non-linearity and lagged effects as well as the addition of governance indicators. Given the importance of cash for firm growth in Barbados, the results suggest that policymakers should consider providing greater liquidity support for start-ups.

Pages: 1-18

Key words: liquidity, firm size, growth, Caribbean.

Quality Education for All in the Eastern Caribbean: Rethinking the Curriculum in the Face of Universal Secondary Education

by Dr. Coreen Leacock

This paper explores the issue of quality education as it relates to universal secondary education (USE) in the Eastern Caribbean (EC). It discusses the historical context of secondary education in the region, and its influence on areas such as the purpose of secondary education, the content of the secondary education programmes, and the manner in which students are transferred from primary education to secondary. The paper also discusses challenges faced by EC countries where USE is already in place, citing the example of Barbados, and identifying issues that must be addressed if quality is to be a priority for secondary education for all in the region.

Pages: 19-38

Key words: universal secondary education, quality education, Caribbean, curriculum.

Disruptive Behaviours in Barbadian Classrooms: Implications for Universal Secondary Education in the Caribbean

by Dr. Benita Thompson

This paper examines how classroom disruptive behaviours can derail the benefits to be derived from Universal Secondary Education (USE). Specific attention is paid to disruptive behaviour as it relates to the nature and level of occurrence in older and newer secondary schools and the perceived causes. Implications from the findings suggest that Caribbean territories yet to implement USE should consider issues relating to more equitable student allocation, appropriate and relevant curriculum, the training of teachers in classroom management and more parent inclusion in the education system. Consideration of these issues should certainly enhance the quality of education provided by USE.

Pages: 39-58

Key words: classroom disruptive behaviour, universal secondary education, disruptive behavior.

COMMENTARIES

A Tale of Constitutive Capacities for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Natural Resources Management (NRM): Between India and the Caribbean Basin

by Mr. Emmanuel Asomba

With evidence taken from India and the Caribbean region, this commentary draws on different dimensions and complementarities as they unfold to engage sustainable Natural Resources Management (NRM).

Pages: 59-67.

Is Money Endogenous in the Pacific Island Countries?

by Prof. T.K. Jayaraman and Dr. Chee-Keong Choong

The objective of this paper is to examine whether any generalisation could be made in respect of all six Pacific island countries, which have their own independent currencies.

Pages: 68-78.

Science, Technology and Innovation and Inequality

by Mr. Richard Kelly

This paper discusses inequalities related to the use (or unavailability) of STI from the perspective of Jamaica. The main focus of the paper is on education and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). It looks briefly at health, employment and security.

Pages: 79-91.

Volume 34 No. 4 December 2009

W. Arthur Lewis and the Legacy of the Caribbean Development Bank

by Dr. Barbara Ingham and Dr. Mark Figueroa

This article discusses the legacy that the Caribbean Development Bank derived from its first President, W. Arthur Lewis. It credits the Bank's management success to Lewis whose early training left him committed to efficient administration. The Bank's policy under Lewis is explored, noting the emphasis that he placed on the development of the agricultural sector, human capital and entrepreneurship as well as need for social discipline and a rising domestic savings rate. The article concludes that despite gains in education, skills and infrastructure, Caribbean developmental goals have often been undermined, as Lewis feared they would be, by indebtedness and macro-economic instability.

Pages: 1-21

Key words: Caribbean Development Bank, W. Arthur Lewis, development banks, Caribbean, development.

Economic Growth, Poverty and Income Inequality

by Dr. Compton Bourne

This article deals three facets, i.e., economic growth, poverty and income distribution from a Caribbean perspective, drawing on both the data and empirical findings by various authors specific to the Caribbean as well as on a wider body of economic literature.

Pages: 22-47.

Little Cays Can Open Mighty Doors: The Potential of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Transition from Capitalism to Econologism

by Prof. Dennis Pantin

This article interprets Lewis' methodological approach to addressing the economic development challenge and then apply this to the potential role and contribution of Caribbean and other small and island economies (SIDS) to what I understand to be the tectonic shift demanded in the nature and relationship between the economic, social, political and ecological systems on a global scale.

Pages: 48-79.

Sir Arthur Lewis – A Man of His Time; and Ahead of His Time

by Prof. Norman Girvan

This article is an overview of Sir Arthur's work, that he was not only a man of his time in the subjects that he chose to investigate and the answers he came up with; but also ahead of his time, in that much of his work has continuing salience and resonance in the world of today. (He was also, of course, "ahead" of his time, by virtue of his intellectual brilliance and the many leadership positions that he occupied).

Pages: 80-98.

Dependent Economic Development in the English-speaking Caribbean, 1945-2000

by Dr. DeLisle Worrell

This article deals with the dependent economic development of the English-speaking Caribbean spanning over the last fifty years of the 20th century.

Pages: 99-121.

What Purposes for CARICOM Integration Today?

by Vaughan A. Lewis

The article investigates the purposes of CARICOM integration today.

Pages: 122-155.