



Caribbean Child Research Conference



Jamaica Conference Centre
Kingston, Jamaica

October 23 – 24, 2007

“Promoting Child Rights Through Research”



SIR ARTHUR LEWIS
INSTITUTE OF
SOCIAL AND
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STUDIES



Caribbean Child
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Child Development Research Group
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ABSTRACTS

BY SESSION

Caribbean Child Research Conference

**“Promoting Child Rights
Through Research”**

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SESSION 3 – Panel 1: Convention on the Rights of the Child in Practice

Paper 1

• **The Convention on the Rights of the Child in Practice: The Case of Medellín Children's Observatory**

Marta Arango

The presentation will describe the processes of building a children's observatory in Medellín, the progress up to now and lessons learned so far. The project is an alliance among The Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, the Municipality of Medellín, the Antioquia University and CINDE, responsible for the technical work. The Children's Observatory of Medellín is a space to exchange and collectively build knowledge and information related to children in Medellín, built with the participation of children, families communities networks and organizations united by a common interest: to improve the quality of life of children. Its main objective is to collectively build a knowledge base about the conditions of the rights of the child from the perspective of life cycle and gender that will inform public policy and generate adequate information to design and implement quality programs to improve the life conditions of children in Medellín. The Observatory has four objectives:

- ◆ Promote the recognition of children as subjects of rights through training.
- ◆ Develop an information system, based on indicators and dimensions that reflect the conditions of children, the Information System.
- ◆ Contribute to the production and systematization of knowledge about children through research projects research system
- ◆ Develop a model of communication to disseminate knowledge and information about the conditions of the rights of children.

Paper 2

◆ **The Roles and Responsibilities of Primary Care Physicians in Supporting Children's Rights in the Caribbean Region**

Gillian R. Barclay, Melony Morgan, Michelle Sumner, Pan American Health Organization, Office of Caribbean Program Coordination; Ryan Drayton, State University of New York

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19 CRC, and its focus on child protection, is an important issue for the Caribbean health sector. Together with Article 24 CRC – which sets out the child's right to health – Article 19 implicitly imposes a certain standard for the health sector in the management of child abuse. Article 24(b) calls for States to “ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care.”

In the Caribbean region, physicians can play an important role to support children's rights. However, limited information exists on their perceptions and roles regarding children's rights, and especially child abuse. The objectives of this study were to assess primary care physicians' knowledge, attitudes, and perceived roles in the management and reporting of child abuse.

In-depth interviews were conducted with primary care physicians in the Caribbean region to assess the barriers and facilitators for clinical management and reporting of child abuse. Barriers included limited undergraduate medical education on child abuse, concern with breaching patient confidentiality and trust, poor medical training regarding social issues, fear of physical danger, and the health system structure which does not facilitate reporting and follow-up. Physicians identified their roles in the practice of children's rights as one of advocates or supportive voices for regional strategies to promote children's rights, educating the public and health sector about children's rights, and lobbying for governmental support for and adherence to article 19 CRC.

Paper 3

◆ **Convention on the Rights of the Child in Practice**

Stephany Kasketi, CARICOM Youth Ambassador for Suriname

In this paper, I will look at the position of these children and the efforts made by the government to solve this problem and to be in line with the CRC. For this research, the best methodology was to compile information from:

- ◆ Relevant literature
- ◆ Study of literature
- ◆ Interviews with associate organizations / persons

In the process of data collection, the topic on which research is based is very important. After listing all the relevant agencies and organizations that can provide information on the topic, a study of the data is needed. Interviews have been taken in addition. Suriname is not a country, which provides the latest data on topics. This methodology is chosen because it was not possible to use the available literature. Research done by ms Lillian Ferrier, director of foundation for human development, was not updated. There is no policy instrument in place for children living without parental care in boarding schools and children's homes.

A combination of literature with interviews was needed otherwise the information could have been insufficient. Interviews are closer to the reality. Especially if we are talking about the rights of the child. 'One of our case studies was Mario is 13 years old and has been placed by the police 3 years ago in a children's home. Before that he was in the youth warrant home, not because he had committed crime but because he was living on the street. He saw his mom only two times in the past three years. He couldn't live with her because of her boyfriend who was beating him and also raped his sister. In his new home he has to do all the dirty work and is not allowed to play. Due to this he's always late for school and gets insufficient marks.'

Paper 4

♦ Los niños, niñas y adolescentes de Caracas claman por sus derechos civiles

Gloria López y Yuherqui Guaimaro Dirección de Formación Social, Centro de Investigaciones para la Infancia y la Familia (CENDIF), Caracas, Venezuela

Se presenta y se analiza la opinión de niños de Caracas (Venezuela) sobre los derechos civiles, basados en que el ejercicio de los derechos a la participación y a la opinión debe involucrar también a los niños y considerando que el niño debe ser coautor de las normas que regulan su participación. El número de niños, niñas y adolescentes asesinados en el año 2005 alcanzó la cifra de 473. La situación de inseguridad ciudadana que nos afecta, cuenta entre sus víctimas a una gran parte de nuestra población infantil y juvenil. Los datos fueron recopilados a través de una encuesta y de grupos de discusión. Se exploró la opinión de ciudadano, inseguridad, poder y participación de niños y niñas y adolescentes entre los 9 y 14 años de edad, de estrato socioeconómico bajo, con el objeto de comprender cómo estos niños se van integrando como ciudadanos en una sociedad con las actuales características socio-políticas que se han venido desarrollando en el país.

This paper presents and analyses the views of children from Caracas, Venezuela, on civil rights, based on the premise that children must also be able to exercise the right of participation and the right of opinion, taking into consideration that the child must be co-author of the rules which regulate that participation. The number of boys, girls and adolescents who were murdered in 2005 reached 473. The situation of insecurity which faces the citizenry includes among its victims a large part of our child and youth population. Data was collected by means of a survey and focus group discussions which explored the views of girls, boys and adolescents between the ages of 9 and 14, from a low socioeconomic background, on themes such as citizenship, insecurity, power and participation. The objective was to understand how these children manage to integrate themselves as citizens in a society with the type of current socio-political characteristics which have been developing in this country.

SESSION 3 – Panel 2: Child Development and Nutrition

Paper 1

♦ Baseline Screening Data on a Cohort of 629 Children Entering Basic School in 2006

Marigold J. Thorburn

Introduction: The rationale for this study was that prevalence of cognitive disability in Jamaican children increased from 2% at age 2 to 28% at age 9 (1). The Profiles Study (2) made 13 recommendations to improve outcomes for school age children. The project Community Intervention in Basic Schools attempted to implement 6 of these recommendations in a cohort of 629 basic school children entering school for the first time in September 2006. The aim was to provide intervention in basic school to prevent school failure later.

Objectives:

1. To identify children at risk of school failure on entry to basic school
2. To determine whether learning and other disabilities contribute to this problem

We planned to use a 2 stage approach—screening the children with 2 questionnaires and anthropomorphic measures. Failures on any of these plus 20% of “normals” would have comprehensive assessments. Failure to obtain research funds meant we have done only stage 1.

Methodology: The Eleven Questions and the Denver 2 test were used on 629 children during the Christmas term, 2006.

Findings: A mean of 21% of children tested suspect on the Denver2 test and 24% had 2 or more perceived problems on the Eleven Questions. Rates of negative responses to both tests varied widely in different areas and were more frequent in boys than girls. A statistically significant percent of children over 4 years failed the Denver 2.

Conclusions: The rates of abnormal screening results were higher than expected. There were probably at least 2 children with disabilities in each cluster.

Further research is indicated to dig deeper and follow the children into primary school.

Paper 2

◆ **Child Well-Being in Jamaica, 1990-2005: The Creation of a Child Development Index (CDI)**

Christopher Smith, PIOJ

The study seeks to determine the overall well-being of the Jamaican child between 1990 – 2005. The study will further seek to ascertain if there were changes in the well-being of Jamaica's children, and if there were changes, by how much. Conceptually, the well-being will be measured across four (4) quality-of-life domains namely: Material Well-Being, Health, Education and Safety, with approximately seventeen (17) indicators. These indicators will be used to compile a composite index, i.e. the Child Development Index.

The time series for each indicator will date back to 1990 and will be indexed by percentage change from the base year (1990) – meaning that each year's value in the index is computed as a percentage change over the base year. Each indicator will have an equal weight in its sub-index (domain) which will then have an equal weight in the composite (overall) index.

Preliminary results show that there has been an overall improvement in average school enrolment, moving from 73.0 per cent in 1990 to 86.2 per cent in 2005, an increase of 13.2 percentage points. Similarly, immunization against the major diseases (OPV, DPT, BCG and MMR) for the 0-59 month old has shown an increase.

Additionally, statistical tests will be carried out to establish whether a relationship exists between the CDI on the one hand and several macro-economic variables, on the other hand, in particular, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the inflation rate.

Finally, the paper will address any policy implications derived from the findings.

Paper 3

◆ **A Results-Based Assessment of the Coordinating Role of the Child Development Agency in Jamaica**

Philip Osei and Hilda Darkwah, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, UWI, Mona

Purpose: This paper seeks to examine co-ordination in the work of the Child Development Agency in Jamaica using a results-based framework.

Methodology: The author used elite interviews and interpretive analysis of policy documents to ascertain information. The case study method was adopted to achieve a better understanding of the agency.

Findings: The CDA could co-ordinate its activities internally and collaborate with external agencies to ensure better service provision for children, but these roles have not been maximised. The agency seems uncomfortable with the concept of co-ordination, which is surprising, because coordination is a basic organisational role of every public agency. This attitude may be admissible taking the trying circumstances in which the agency has had to evolve and develop its role in the public service environment in the country. This notwithstanding, the immediate outcome is that the CDA has managed to forge strong working relationships, where possible, with key service providers, both public and non-state. The CDA has been decentralised to ensure effective administration. The CDA has, however, been unable to achieve its main objective of ensuring the holistic development of the child due to organisational and financial constraints. Its internal arrangement seems to perpetuate the separation of its constituent units.

Key Lesson: The evolution of the CDA is still a work in progress and requires strong leadership and ministerial support to position the agency to achieve the objectives of the Child Development Act.

Paper 4

◆ **Feeding Styles of Urban Jamaican Mothers and the Effect on their Children's Nutritional Status**

Krishta-Gay Lewis, Julie Meeks Gardner, Joan Thomas

The purpose of this study was to examine the feeding practices of a group of poor urban mothers, and to determine whether the maternal feeding style is related to the nutritional status of the child. The mothers of 57 children aged 4 to 24 months, selected from a poor community in urban Clarendon, were interviewed about their feeding practices using a structured, face-to-face questionnaire. The lengths and weights of the children were also measured. The mothers were grouped according to their feeding styles. The children's nutritional status was determined according to WHO standards. ANOVA was used to examine the effect of the mothers' feeding styles on their children's nutritional status. Seven children (12.3%) showed stunting, six (10.5%) were underweight and eight (14.0%) were wasted. A total of six (10.8%) of the infants were overweight. The mothers' breastfeeding and complementary feeding patterns were similar to the finding of previous studies. However, their feeding styles did not significantly affect their children's nutritional status. Although there was no effect of the mothers' feeding styles on their children's nutritional status, the undernourished children were more likely to have mothers with low feeding style scores, indicating a possible relationship between feeding style and nutritional status.

Further studies are recommended to determine a clear relationship between feeding style and nutritional status of children.

SESSION 3 – Panel 3: Gender and Education Issues

Paper 1

◆ **Mediating Caribbean Young Men's Sexuality**

Peter Weller, Counselling Unit, University of the West Indies (Mona) Health Centre

We report on the results for the adolescents and young men (14-24 years of age) who participated in qualitative research conducted in Jamaica, Grenada and St Lucia (2005-2007) as part of the MAN Initiative Project. In Jamaica (46) boys and young men participated in 5 focus groups. In Grenada there were (27) participants in (3) focus groups, and in St Lucia (21) boys and young men participated in (2) focus groups. The participants were recruited through local organizations and completed questionnaires to identify beliefs and attitudes which were then discussed.

We report on some of the issues with a focus on the impact of media including the internet on the perceptions these young men have of sexuality generally and the choices they make with regard to their sexual behaviour. The juxtaposition of graphic sexual imagery, easily accessible from the world wide web, with local sexual and reproductive health promotion messages provide conflicting information and pose serious challenges for these young men as they attempt to negotiate the difficult terrain of gender identity and gender relationships.

There is a clear need for more health education programs – preferably conducted by men, and targeting the developmental needs of these young men in the context of their social realities. The results also highlight the need for the sensitization of parents to the world wide web, and an examination of the implications for teens asserting their rights (as rights holders, within limits) as well as those of the duty bearers (parents/guardians).

Paper 2

◆ **Role Models, Gender and Academic Achievement in Jamaica**

Gail M. Ferguson, Children's Institute, University of Rochester

Qualitative research reveals concerns among Jamaican educators about the effect of boys' role models (RMs) on their achievement (e.g., Parry, 2000). This empirical study used mixed qualitative/quantitative research methods to investigate gender differences in RMs and effects on grades. 269 male and female Kingston 5th formers reported their RMs, the perceived educational level of their RMs and their own expected educational attainment. In addition, students' most recent average exam grades were collected from school records. RM data were analyzed to induce emergent categories, which included relatives, non-relative professionals and celebrities/glamour figures, and RMs were named from Jamaica and abroad. Consistent with international research findings, parents were by far the most frequently selected RMs, most students had gender-matched RMs and more boys than girls reported celebrity/glamorized RMs. The level of education students expected to achieve was significantly related to the level of education they perceived their role model to have achieved. In addition, there was a triple jeopardy effect of RM characteristics on student achievement: students whose RMs were famous, wealthy, and had low perceived education (e.g., entertainer) had significantly lower grades than students whose RMs were famous, wealthy, and had high perceived education (e.g., world-famous surgeon). Findings will be discussed in the context of North American research on students' RMs and gender socialization in the Caribbean.

Paper 3

◆ **Vernacular Language Rights in Education**

Hubert Devonish, Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, UWI, Mona

This paper examines the issue of language education policy within the Commonwealth Caribbean from the perspective of the rights of children. The international conventions which address language rights are examined in the light of the 1953 UNESCO report on vernacular languages in education. Subsequent research and discussions on the issue as well as the conventions are also applied to the situation of vernacular languages in the Creole speaking Caribbean. The peculiarities of these situations are addressed, notably the fact that Creole languages are not necessarily viewed by their own speakers as languages in their own right, and that speakers may actually consider discrimination as justified. The focus of the study was pupils in primary education in Jamaica in grades 1-4. A review of the literature concerning the extent to which the language rights of Creole speakers in the education system are violated was completed. We propose options that would respect the rights of these pupils such as the full bilingual educational approach.

SESSION 4 – Panel 4: Corporal Punishment and Trafficking in Children

Paper 1

◆ **Toward Understanding the Durability of the Use of Corporal Punishment among Trinidadian Parents**

Julie Cooper Altman, Adelphi University School of Social Work

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Trinidad & Tobago in 1991, suggests that there is no compatibility between the Convention and corporal punishment of children. This paper presents data from a 2007 study documenting the durability, even resurgence, of corporal punishment as a child-rearing practice in Trinidad, despite progress in implementing law and social policy that dissuades its use. A qualitative approach to the investigation into the context and norms of child-rearing among low-income, urban Afro-Trinidadian families was used. Data was collected through semi-structured public observation of child-rearing; extensive review of the country's popular and scholarly press; multiple interviews with 28 parent participants, five parenting experts and 42 children; and two focus groups. Data and field notes were transcribed, and analyzed using the constant comparative method. Factors contributing to the durability of corporal punishment as a child rearing practice include: the lack of institutions currently in place to help define, document or respond to the problem of child abuse; increasing prioritization on developmental goals of the country without adequate recognition of the role of children as valued and necessary social capital; transformation of traditional social structures and economies into more complex institutions without corresponding support for the changing needs of children in this context; fewer extended family households and other resources for child shifting; the privileging of ideology over empiricism generally, and with respect to child rearing practices, specifically; the increasing impact of globalization and its accompanying plethora of media influences; the rising crime rate coexisting with strong notions about parental accountability and authority, community distrust and increasing social isolation; confusion over the legitimacy of corporal punishment since repeal of its use in public schools, and the lack of knowledge of discipline alternatives; and calls for and burgeoning development of a unique "Trini" identity, accompanied by pride in the endorsement of physical discipline as part of that identity.

Paper 2

◆ **Child Trafficking: Global and Caribbean Perspectives**

Leith Dunn, UWI Centre for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Campus Unit

This paper draws on findings from a global assessment of the Unconditional Worst Forms of Child Labour conducted by the author for the International Labour Organisation's International Programme to Eliminate Child Labour (IPEC) in 2006. It also shares case studies from primary research in Jamaica also conducted by the author in 2007 to illustrate local forms to make the case for further research. The paper highlights the related global and national human rights framework; identifies the scope, characteristics, contributing factors and consequences of child trafficking; identifies research, policies and programmes to address emerging issues and to support the development and human rights agenda of children in Caribbean countries.

This qualitative study uses published global and national sources and analyses three case studies from Jamaica and the case of "Restavecks" in Haiti, to increase awareness and promote action on child trafficking in the Caribbean. An estimated 1.2 million children were trafficked globally in 2006. Victims are characterized by: a gender division of "labour"; most victims are girls, sexually exploited or in forced domestic labour. Main contributing factors are: social, economic and political inequalities that increase children's vulnerabilities. Recommendations to prevent child trafficking, support female and male victims and protect their rights and development include: expanding policy research, supporting advocacy and public awareness programmes, increasing education and employment opportunities for adults, and strengthening the institutional framework to improve monitoring and protection of children - especially those aged 0-8 years and girls.

Paper 3

◆ **Corporal punishment in Trinidad and Tobago: An Insight into Teacher Training and Teacher Type**

Rona Jualla-Ali

This research fills a void in the literature on corporal punishment in Trinidad and Tobago. There has always been an ongoing debate on the use of corporal punishment as a disciplinary strategy in schools and although corporal punishment has been banned in several countries of the world it still continues to persist in many others. This Research Paper involves an in-depth probing into the phenomenon of corporal punishment as a form of 'discipline'. It attempts to explain the continued use of corporal punishment as a behaviour modification tool in today's classroom, despite the fact that modern education literature abounds with alternative disciplinary strategies that can be readily adopted.

The principal objective of this research is to facilitate educational reform in Trinidad and Tobago by enlightening readers about the phenomenon of corporal punishment, with respect to causal factors; legal status worldwide; arguments for and against; and alternative strategies. It goes beyond presenting the reader with a thorough research on corporal punishment. It entails a formative evaluation of

the curriculum of the various institutions with the intention of highlighting curriculum areas that need to be addressed thus improving the existing program so that it can successfully meet the desirable ends.

Hypotheses:

The research proposes that teachers' tendency to use corporal punishment as a disciplinary tool in today's classroom is significantly related to the extent to which they feel equipped by the teacher-training they received and the teacher-type category into which they fall.

Sample

The sample comprised one hundred and eighty two (182) teachers from the various teacher-training institutions in Trinidad. A sample of teachers (expected N = 30) from each training institution was randomly chosen by this researcher. In addition, because of the researcher's belief that number of years teaching experience can significantly affect the dependent variable (attitude to corporal punishment), a sample of graduate teachers was also taken from Servol and the Ministry of Education Schools. It was difficult to access graduate teachers possessing the post graduate Diploma in Education because the number enrolled each year are few and spread over the geographic location of Trinidad and Tobago. Care was taken to take a sample of graduate teachers from different school types, whether Private or Government; or Hindu or Christian or Islamic, for example.

The instrument used was a pre-coded questionnaire. The analysis (using chi-square and Kendall's tau) indicated that there was a significant relationship ($p < 0.01$) between (i) teachers' attitude to corporal punishment and the extent to which they felt equipped by their teacher-training institution to deal with discipline problems in the classroom and (ii) teachers' attitude to corporal punishment and teacher type.

Paper 4

◆ Children Trafficking: A Scourge to any Society – from the Caribbean to the African Continent

Natalie Walthrust-Jones, Government and Political Studies, Division of Commerce, Barbados Community College

Trafficking in persons is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purposes of exploitation. Trafficking is a human rights violation that constitutes a contemporary form of slavery. States should recognise that the roots of human trafficking include vulnerabilities based upon age, poverty, lack of education, unemployment or underemployment, gender discrimination, as well as the non-enforcement of laws on the registration of births, the age of marriage and the age of majority. Further, States should ratify and implement relevant and appropriate international legal instruments on human rights and trafficking in persons. States should adopt and implement the laws and administrative structures needed to support international co-operation and assistance in preventing, investigating and prosecuting cases of human trafficking. Despite the statistics, people trafficking still has not captured the attention of the public or made it to the top of political agenda in the region and across borders. Very few cases even make it to the courts.

Paper 5

◆ Disciplinary Practices and Children's Experiences in Trinidad and Tobago. Does Socio-Economic Status Matter?

Godfrey St. Bernard, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, UWI, St. Augustine

The paper evaluates and tests statistical hypotheses linking socio-economic status to a variety of disciplinary practices that are embraced by mothers and caregivers in order to address behavioural problems among children. Data are obtained from the 2006 MICS Survey that was administered in Trinidad and Tobago. The analyses are based on a sample of 2,064 children 2-14 years old. Preliminary results show that in households containing children 2-14 years old, approximately 75% had at least one child who had experienced at least one form of psychological or physical punishment by their mothers/caretakers or other household members. Only 4.4 percent had at least one child subjected to severe physical punishment.

The emergent results will be informative in discerning whether any differences in disciplinary standards prevail across socio-economic status and if so, recommend strategies for eliminating gaps and assuring adherence to best practices for improving outcomes associated with conflict and anger management.

SESSION 4 – Panel 5: HIV and Sexuality

Paper 1

◆ **A Model for Reducing Stigma and Discrimination Towards Children Infected With or Affected by HIV/AIDS Accessing Early Childhood Education**

Althea Bailey, Department of Community Health & Psychiatry, UWI Mona; Heather Reid-Jones, St Catherine Health Department; Alicia Gray, St Catherine Health Department; Dawn Walters, South East Regional Health Authority

Objective: Reducing stigma and discrimination towards children 0-5 years infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS attending Early Childhood Institutions.

Background: Reports of children with HIV being turned away from day care centres and basic schools in St. Catherine led to community interventions from the health department. It became clear that this response required multiple approaches including interventions in early childhood institutions (ECIs) as well as partnership with the Ministry of Education.

Method: A stigma reduction intervention confined to the parish of St. Catherine targeted 1500 workers in ECIs. It consisted of training in the prevention of occupational exposure to blood borne diseases and the production of educational materials. This was done in a context of making the ECI safe. HIV was one of four areas of focus including immunization, control of diarrhoeal diseases and management of asthma/respiratory infections. A train the trainers approach was used to equip the ECI workers to sensitize parents and colleagues.

Results: A pre-post implementation survey showed significant improvement in attitudes towards children with HIV among ECI workers.

Conclusion: This programme is a suitable model for stigma reduction in ECIs.

Paper 2

◆ **Psychosocial Programming for HIV/AIDS Affected and Infected Children in Jamaica**

Ryan J. Petteway, University of Michigan School of Public Health; Eden Brand, University of Michigan

Jamaica has one of the highest HIV/AIDS infection rates in the world outside of Sub-Saharan Africa. Rates are particularly high among children and young adults. Though access to anti-retroviral treatment and medical care is relatively high throughout Jamaica in comparison to other developing nations, little attention and resources have been given toward addressing the psychological, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of those who are HIV/AIDS affected or infected. The goal of our work was to identify and document existing psychosocial programs for HIV/AIDS affected or infected children and to recommend processes for enhancing/expanding them, as well as to identify extraneous programs that may be effective in a Jamaican context. This paper is the product of a service inventory aimed at documenting HIV/AIDS-related services offered by various organizations and clinics in Jamaica. Of 32 organizations interviewed, 5 indicated the use of psychosocial programming or activities. Only 2 of these 5 organizations actually carried out such activities, none of which were part of a planned and evaluated program or intervention. There is a clear absence of psychosocial programming for HIV/AIDS affected and infected children in Jamaica. More research is needed to better identify and address their psychosocial needs, as a continued neglect of these needs may prove costly. A collective and unified effort involving governmental and non-governmental entities will be needed to ensure adequate attention and resources.

Paper 3

◆ **Documenting HIV/AIDS Intervention Programmes for Jamaican Children**

Joan Thomas, Natalie Irwin Carby, Caribbean Child Development Centre, University of the West Indies

The HIV epidemic in Jamaica poses serious problems for our children who are at risk of infection, and are affected when their caregivers and family members become infected. Several programmes aimed at lessening the impact of HIV on our children have been developed but information regarding these programmes has not been compiled. We carried out a survey to identify and compile information on HIV-related interventions for children in Jamaica. Organizations that implemented HIV-related intervention programmes for children (0-18 years) between 2001 and 2007 completed interviewer-administered questionnaires. The data collected on programmes included characteristics of the target population served, geographic coverage, type(s) of activities, and programme planning, implementation and outcomes. Thirty-nine intervention programmes were identified, which focused on preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, providing treatment to infected children, increasing awareness about HIV, addressing needs of infected children and/or children orphaned by AIDS, and reducing the spread of HIV and other infections among adolescents. Most programmes were implemented within Kingston and St. Andrew. An assessment of all programmes is underway, including overlap in activities, and identifying areas of unmet needs. The current work is useful for identifying priority areas for programming for children infected and affected by HIV. An electronic database of all the programmes will be made available online.

Paper 4

◆ Access to Contraceptive by Minors in Jamaica: A Public Policy Analysis

Tazhmye Crawford, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies, University of the West Indies

Access to contraceptive by minors has spurred policy and legislative debates; part of which is that in an effort to successfully meet government's objective of healthy sexual lifestyle among minors/adolescents, the fundamental rights of the minor/adolescent should outweigh that of his/her parent/guardian in this regard. This paper examines the precursors of sexual reproductive health in minors, namely: the rights of the child versus the intervention of parent/guardian and health care providers, contraceptive, abstinence, unwanted and unplanned pregnancies, education, counseling, STIs and confidentiality. This research hypothesizes that access to contraceptive by minors is more favourable to males than females. The research is also informed by quantitative and qualitative data. 238 cases were investigated in Jamaica, during the period 2006-2007. The age group population was 9-11, 12-14, 15-17. The methods of snowball and convenient sampling were used and revealed that majority of the respondents who were sexually active were not using any form of contraceptive method. >50% respondents reported that efforts to legitimately access contraceptives were sometimes futile based on the reasons presented in this paper. This resulted in unwanted (<38%) and unplanned pregnancies (<33%) mostly in the 15-17 age category), sexually transmitted infections (17% mainly among the 12-17 age group), and abstinence (7.5% overall). More than one-third of the respondents were sexually active with partners outside of their age range. While the various public policy implications are explored, this piece of research will contribute to further policy and legislative developments.

SESSION 4 – Panel 6: Parenting for the 21st Century

Paper 1

◆ A Proposed Research Agenda for Adapting and Validating use of Evidence Based Interventions for Child Interpersonal Trauma developed in the United States to Caribbean Contexts

Elaine A. Thomas, Georgia School of Professional Psychology, Argosy University, Atlanta

Evidence based psychological interventions for child interpersonal trauma (including physical abuse, sexual abuse, witnessing domestic and community violence) are gradually becoming used outside of the controlled research contexts in which they have been developed in the United States. Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) has been proven effective in the treatment of children who have been sexually abused and exposed to multiple traumas, when compared to alternate treatments, in five separate randomized controlled trials including 499 children aged 2-14 in the United States. Statistically significant improvements in PTSD symptoms, behavior problems and depression have consistently been found in these studies. Dissemination of TF-CBT to Caribbean contexts is a logical place to start as effective methods to treat child trauma are being identified in these locales. Efficacy in Caribbean contexts cannot be assumed, however. A conceptual overview of issues in validation and adaptation to Caribbean contexts is given based on a review of the TF-CBT literature and literature on cultural adaptation of evidence-based treatments. TF-CBT is described followed by description of barriers to dissemination in Caribbean contexts and how they might be overcome. A research agenda that is culturally and resource sensitive to validate use in these contexts is outlined. Development and validation of culturally appropriate measures of symptomatology, use of local experts, use of local focus groups and implementation of single-case methodology by front-line practitioners are offered as the primary targets in beginning validation and adaptation. These are offered as a starting point to discussion and collaboration with local experts.

Paper 2

◆ El sentido de la maternidad en madres adolescentes en situación de exclusión social

Ofelia Roldán Vargas y Emilia Ochoa Acosta, Centro Internacional de Educación y Desarrollo Humano –CINDE, Colombia

Esta es una investigación cualitativa de corte hermenéutico, basada en la interpretación de textos construidos socialmente en la cotidianidad escolar, en la que se devela el sentido que tiene la maternidad para un grupo de mujeres adolescentes pertenecientes a un estrato socioeconómico bajo de la ciudad de Medellín, que en su condición de estudiantes de bachillerato tienen la responsabilidad de ser madres solas.

La recolección y construcción de los datos se hizo a partir de relatos y entrevistas en profundidad a estudiantes con edades entre trece y dieciséis años, que tienen un(o) hijo(a), están embarazadas por primera vez o esperan el(a) segundo(a). Como resultado del estudio se encuentra que ser madre para estas estudiantes es símbolo de libertad respecto a normas familiares impuestas arbitrariamente, está asociado a amor romántico sin atisbos de responsabilidad, es una prolongación ingenua del juego de mamacitas que le da sentido a la vida en contextos socialmente empobrecidos y/o es el final de las expectativas propias como mujer para hacerse cargo de una vida que inicia.

Finalmente, se concluye que la maternidad adolescente, está asociada a la conjugación de múltiples factores económicos, sociales, políticos, educativos y culturales, que se traduce en reproducción de los círculos de pobreza cuya atención implica arreglos institucionales significativos en los sectores educativo, social y de la salud.

This research is developed from a hermeneutic perspective, based on the interpretation of texts that are socially constructed in everyday school life, revealing the understandings of motherhood of a group of adolescent girls of low socioeconomic background from Medellín, who have the dual roles of high school student and single mother.

Data collection and compilation was carried out utilizing case studies and in-depth interviews with students between the ages of thirteen and sixteen years of age, that either have one child, are pregnant for the first time, or are expecting a second child.

The findings show, among other things, that for these students, to be a mother symbolises freedom from arbitrarily imposed family norms, and is associated with romantic love without any hint of responsibility, a naïve continuation of 'playing mummy', which gives meaning to life in socially impoverished contexts, and/or marks the end of their own expectations as women as they take on the responsibility for a new life.

From these findings, it is concluded that adolescent motherhood is associated with multiple economic, social, political, educational and cultural factors that translate into the reproduction of cycles of poverty, and implies significant institutional measures in the education, social and health sectors.

SESSION 6 – Panel 7: Violence against Children

Paper 1

♦ Sexual Abuse of Children in Barbados

Christine Barrow and Corin Bailey, SALISES, UWI

Background: Sexual violence against children has a long, but hidden history in the Caribbean and has become a 'priority area of concern'. This paper responds to this priority through an examination of the perceptions of and attitudes to child abuse in Barbados among professionals and the general public, and also the perpetrators themselves. The study allows greater insight into the dynamics of child sexual abuse in Barbados, examining the manner in which perceptions of abuse affect both the commission and treatment of such offences in the island.

Method: The study employed a quantitative methodology. Data on those convicted for sexual abuse in the last ten years were obtained from the records of the Supreme Court of Barbados and temporal trends analysed. In addition, a questionnaire survey was conducted among a sample of the general public to assess the manner in which sexual abuse is perceived in Barbadian society. This was done in order to gain an understanding of societal perceptions and the manner in which these affect the decisions on the course of action taken against offenders. Data were examined against the background of the current discourse on child sexual abuse in the Caribbean.

Results: Preliminary results demonstrate a greater level of understanding for certain forms of abuse such as that which occurs between teenagers of similar age where one is below the age of consent, while other forms receive general condemnation. This suggests the existence of a cultural 'normalcy' and acceptance of certain types of abuse.

Paper 2

♦ Curbing Deviant Behaviours in Secondary Schools: An Assessment of the Corrective Methods Used

Paul Bourne, Department of Government, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus

Social deviance continues to be a challenge in our world and in particular in Caribbean topographies. Within the Jamaican educational space, school personnel, in some secondary schools, continue this ancient belief that the way to address deviant behaviours is still through corporal punishment. This quantitative cross-sectional study explores the mechanism of correctional interventions used by school personnel and their effectiveness in reducing violent acts. It is a convenient sample of 195 10th and 11th graders taken from 2 secondary schools in the Corporate Area. Many of the students reside in communities that are experiencing some degree of violence (approximately 81%); with 66.2% of sampled population having had witnessed some act of violence, with 11.3% having witnessed murders. The students believed that most effective medium in addressing acts of violence in school is counseling and not the 'zero tolerance' approach, which is traditionally used. Flogging was found to be a marginal deterrent in alleviating acts of violence at school and equally so was suspension. Expulsion, on the other hand, was highly effective in address issues relating to 'shooting' whereas counsel was most effective in addressing issue relating to threats, stealing, physical confrontation and 'stabbing'. Nevertheless, 20.5% of the respondents' report that corporal punishment is not working compared to 69.7% who say that this is working but just "a little". This research provides an insightful analysis of corrective mechanisms used by school personnel and students' perspective on their effectiveness in addressing acts of violence, and equally serves as a catalyst for a significant drive to use counseling.

Paper 3

◆ **Empowering Haitian Child Domestic (Restavecs) and Survivors of Child Abuse with Tools to Cope with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**

Jean-Yves Plaisir, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

According to UNICEF estimates, around 300,000 Haitian children live in child domesticity. Although interventions focusing on rescuing Haitian child domestics (a.k.a restavecs) have increased in recent years, there is, however, a dearth of efforts in helping these children to cope with post-traumatic stress disorder. As a follow up to a full day training for social work participants of the Restavèk Network (Aba Sistèm Restavèk) in Haiti, this presenter has co-authored a self-help book, entitled *Au-delà de la douleur: Comment refaire une vie maltraitée*—translated as *Beyond the pain: How to reconstruct a maltreated life*—which aims at helping victims of violence and child abuse survivors to recover from early trauma. The theoretical underpinning of the book comes from leading-edge clinical perspectives on trauma and focuses on the survivor. Using socio-cultural theory as its guide, this paper will examine the relevance of such a self-help book to the situations of former and current child domestics (restavecs) in Haiti, with implications for children living in poverty, marginalization, and risks situations in other parts of the world.

Paper 4

◆ **Discipline, Crime and Violence: Rocks on the Lid of a Boiling Pot?¹**

Michael Rosberg, Galen University Applied Research and Development Institute

A quarter century beyond colonialism, there is a popular outcry for re-activation of the death penalty to stem rising crime and a perceived slide into social chaos. From inner cities there is another cry: "Life haad out ya!" This chapter uses results of a national, clustered, stratified and random sample survey of children and adolescents between the ages of 3 and 17 that finds a strong relationship between self-reported security deficits (emotional/mental, financial and/or physical) and anti-social security-seeking behaviours. Recorded interviews (with in- and out-of-school adolescents and children used to generate the study's hypothesis) predict this relationship. The chapter suggests that strict physical and mental/emotional discipline to shape good citizens is an inherited and unquestioned colonial control mechanism (slave lashing) and a justification for the outbursts that frustrated, security-deprived parents turn upon their children. Parental security-seeking actions are then replicated in their offsprings' anti-social behaviours. This essay recommends a remedy.

Paper 5

◆ **Making Every Child Count: Researching Child Protection in Colombia's Most Displaced Zone**

Anita Sheth, Save the Children Canada

The paper presents the results of a research study developed to collect primary and verifiable data on the violence and security risks faced by young people living in Colombia's most displaced zone of armed conflict during 2000-2006. A geo-referencing method was used to first gain safe entry to the selected site of armed conflict and a map developed. Quantitative and qualitative tools were then used to identify and corroborate the number of, method to and alleged groups responsible for killings and the threats to life young people faced in this sample area. Findings indicate that nearly 500 young people were killed or threatened as a direct result of the armed conflict. Contrary to official opinions, most of the dead had received some form of schooling, were not drug users and had family ties. These findings support previous claims that the armed conflict in Colombia was not so much the results of "street gang violence of young criminals," but the result of the presence of legal and illegal armed groups. Furthermore, they suggest that the official discourse used to explain the violence as "street crime" perpetuates intolerant ideologies against young people and more importantly, offers incorrect solutions in responding to the particular nature and types of violence faced by young people living in these zones of conflict. The paper concludes by identifying the study relevance to the Caribbean. Save the Children Canada will be duplicating this research study in Cité Soleil, Haiti, a known area for armed conflict.

¹ Thanks are extended to UNICEF in Belize which permitted use of data from the study on the Impact of Crime and Violence on Children and Adolescents, 2005. The study was coordinated by the Community Rehabilitation Department (Community Rehabilitation Department) of the Ministry of Human Development.

SESSION 6 – Panel 8: Policy and Planning and the Justice System

Paper 1

- ◆ **Children and Youth: Between their Homes, the Streets and Child Protection Institutions in the City of Rio de Janeiro**
Irene Rizzini, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and International Center for Research on Childhood (CIESPI)

This study was carried out in Rio de Janeiro with the purpose of allowing children and adolescents who are circulation on the streets or living in institutions to express their voices. The research team opted to develop an action-research in which a participatory methodology would integrate a group of actors with diverse experiences and professional qualifications. A group of street educators, youth workers that specialize in working with young people on the street, joined the researchers in the field work. We carried out in total 60 interviews, as anticipated. However, in some interviews more than one child spoke. In this way, we have interviews with 67 individuals, 48 boys and 19 girls. Forty-five of these interviews were carried out on the street and 15 of them in shelters.

Even though these children are known as '*street children*', their life trajectories show that the streets are only one of the places where they spend time or live on. They spend most of their time circulating from their family homes, to the streets and to several institutions, not finding the protection and the care they need. Their testimonies reveal that they are perfectly aware of the fact that they are discriminated against and despised. Their life histories are full of episodes of violence and broken ties. The authors conclude that many of these episodes affecting the lives of children who are born in poverty could be prevented had there been services to provide support to their families and communities.

Paper 2

- ◆ **Against the Odds: An Examination of the Factors which Hinder the Completion of Secondary School by Children with Sickle Cell Disease in Jamaica**
Camille Alexa Daley, Department of Sociology, University of the West Indies, Mona

This study focuses on the situation of Jamaican children with sickle cell disease and the challenges they face in completing secondary education. Sickle cell disease (SCD) is the most common genetic disorder in the world, and one in every 150 children born in Jamaica has a form of SCD. The condition is more severe during a child's formative years causing frequent bouts of absence from primary and secondary school. Consequently persons with sickle cell disease are at greater risk of not completing their schooling and suffering social and economic marginalization. The study examines the impact of several sociological and physiological variables on the successful completion of secondary education by persons with SCD in Jamaica. Preliminary findings indicate that secondary school students with sickle cell disease are performing below the national average in terms of the numbers of patients who sit the school leaving Caribbean Secondary Examinations Certificate (CSEC). Being severely affected by sickle cell disease, being raised in a single parent home, coming from a working class or poor background and not attending a traditional high school are all associated with an increased risk of not taking the CSEC examination. This study relies on data collected during face-to-face interviews with a random sample of patients on register at the island's only Sickle Cell Clinic in 2007. It helps to fill the current void in the literature and sheds light on the social reality of persons who suffer from this highly stigmatized and isolating illness.

Paper 3

- ◆ **Strategic Planning for Children in Jamaica**
Aldrie Henry-Lee, SALISES; Taitu Heron, Planning Institute of Jamaica

Using a life cycle approach, we examine strategic planning in the Caribbean with special emphasis on children. Strategic planning for children is critical for the well being of individuals from birth to 17 years old. The discussion is contextualized in the international and regional commitments made by Caribbean Governments to ensure the well-being of the region's children. Primary and secondary data are examined to determine the situation of children in the Caribbean.

Using Jamaica as a case study, the process of strategic planning is examined, highlighting the successes that have been made to date. The paper concludes that although Jamaica has made more progress than most of its Caribbean neighbours, the lack of full implementation of a rights-based approach to development has hindered the full adherence of the rights of the child in Jamaica. Children are still viewed as "second class citizens" who must be seen and not heard. There is reservation to include children in the policy process as participation for children is age-specific and it is sometimes difficult to determine the appropriate age (some policy makers utilize 12 years as a benchmark). However, those aged less than 12 years old also need to have their issues addressed. Until, issues such as voicelessness of children, contradictions in the policy environment, turfism and bureaucratic impediments are dealt with, the full realization of rights of children in the region remain elusive.

Paper 4

◆ **Costs, Financing and Sustainability of the Early Childhood Sector in Anguilla and Belize**

Leon Charles, Heather Gallimore, Caribbean Child Development Centre

These case studies of Anguilla and Belize were designed to demonstrate the costs, investment and sustainability options for financing early childhood sub-sectors that deliver high quality services and ensures adequate coverage. A previously developed financial model was utilized and modified. Field surveys were carried out to assess the quality of early childhood service, assess costs incurred by the service providers and identify financial flows and their sustainability. Policy makers in both countries are interested in strengthening early childhood programming but have little information regarding costs of such programming and financial implications. Operators are finding creative ways to meet the costs of delivering ECD services. Teacher training and upgrading is an urgent priority necessary to improve quality and facilitate increased access. Some cost issues need to be determined in a strategic policy context including: salary levels for a trained early childhood teachers and determination of optimal size for preschools. Government financing for the additional costs was calculated to require an increase in the early childhood budget allocation from 4% to 15% of the education budget in Anguilla and from 1% to 17% in Belize. In addition, policy frameworks are needed for both countries.

SESSION 6 – Panel 9: Children, Poverty, Marginalization and Risks

Paper 1

◆ **Lost in Development: Children of the Beetham**

Julie Cooper Altman, Adelphi University School of Social Work

The research from which this presentation is based focused on better understanding the context and norms of child-rearing among low-income, urban Afro-Trinidadian families. Drawn from ethnographic data collected over a six month period in 2007 from one high-risk community, this work highlights the multitude and complexity of the children's needs in light of the increasing political emphasis to improve the development of Trinidad & Tobago to "first world" status by 2020. A qualitative approach to the investigation was used. Data was collected through semi-structured public observation of child-rearing; extensive review of the country's popular and scholarly press; multiple interviews with 28 parent participants, five experts and 42 children; and two focus groups. Children in this community were found to be regularly exposed to risk factors such as the witnessing of violence and other criminal activities, poverty, low educational attainment among family members, unsafe and toxic living environments, child abuse and neglect, community stigma, discrimination and social exclusion, and inadequate educational resources. Protective factors found to be available to mediate the influence of these risks were few. Further, while adults in children's lives are typically seen as bulwarks for the child, for these children there are too few who fulfill that role adequately, as they are often experiencing their own trauma and difficulties, or, worse, not present at all. The adaptive child-shifting norm historically of value to lower-income parents is showing signs of erosion; it only works when there are those available to take over who want and are able to care. In general, and for a variety of reasons, there is a dearth of positive socialization experiences these children receive both within and away from their families. Multi-level, systemic interventions aimed at reducing risk factors while enhancing protective factors for these populations are suggested.

Paper 2

◆ **Child Development**

Rian Williams, CARICOM Youth Ambassador (Trinidad and Tobago)

Ms. Jackson the Grade 5 teacher violently tapped the blackboard eraser on her table, "Justin I am asking you another time; is Jamaica part of the Caribbean?" The young lad bowed his head in total embarrassment. The voice in his head kept shouting "Yes, Yes, say yes!" Meditating on the conversation taking place in his mind, Justin figured to himself that this must have been the answer, but he dared not open his mouth. Realizing that Justin had no intention of saying anything, Ms. Jackson angrily ordered him to sit and called on another student to answer. Minutes later the recess bell rang and soon enough Justin and his friends made way to the courtyard. Asked why there was no attempt to answer the question, Justin replied that it was pointless since he would not have gotten it correct anyway. "Who said that to you?" his friends asked. "My mother", he replied, "Just this morning she told me that I am stupid and would never be able to do anything right." This research is based on 100 questionnaires relating to child development and family upbringing distributed in various areas and to respondents ranging from 12 upwards. The findings confirm that while there are varying factors that help mould and shape youngsters into the adults they become, one of the major and perhaps most important contributing factor is the family and people who surround them during these formative years.

Paper 3

◆ **Remittances and Child Poverty Alleviation**

Thalia Burnett, Planning Institute of Jamaica

This paper seeks to examine the inflow of remittances from abroad to Jamaica in relation to poverty alleviation focusing primarily on child poverty alleviation, the child being the most vulnerable and at risk. Smith (2006) reported that some 17.5 per cent of children are poor. Using the JSLC Reports and data sets over the period 1996 to 2005, the study will elaborate on the extent and nature of this type of support and trends. In the process, in order to provide a basic overview of the characteristics of a poor child, a profile of the typical poor child will be developed. Such a profile will be useful for more detailed examinations of the 'poor child' and precise interventions.

The analysis of the survey data on the characteristics of children who are poor and recipients of remittances will be primarily descriptive in nature and based on detailed tabulations of the data using the Social Scientist Statistical Package Software (SPSS). The analysis may also incorporate information from published data sources when necessary in order to contextualize the findings. For binary variables such as percentages of poor children receiving remittances, the analysis will focus on percentages of the relevant population with various characteristics. On the other hand, for continuous variables such as the estimated levels of remittances then the means, medians and frequency distributions will be tabulated. Additionally, in parts of the analysis involving continuous variables of particular importance, a graphic representation will be used.

Paper 4

◆ **Research on the Trauma of Child Slavery and Effective Strategies in a Rural Community in Haiti to Eliminate its Practice**

Tamara Thompson, Amy Cox-Martins, Joycelyn McCalla

Child slavery in Haiti in the form of the *restavek* practice arrests the development of the individual, family and society. When parents lack the means to support their children, they are often sent to live with other families. Rather than being cared for, approximately 300,000 children are forced into domestic servitude and made house slaves, or *restavèks* (from the French *rester avec, to stay with*). Robbed of their labor and childhood, these children are subjected to physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. The dehumanizing trauma of child slavery damages not only the children, but the sending and receiving families, society and future generations. This is a report on a work in progress in the rural community of Fond des Blancs, Haiti. In October 2006, 12,000 adults in the area were surveyed door-to-door, with 100 percent indicating that they want to stop sending their children into servitude, and that making education available and affordable in the community is a key toward achieving this end. In March and April 2007, nearly 3,000 households were surveyed door-to-door, indicating that 49.5 percent of all children in Fond des Blancs do not attend primary school, because even relatively low school fees are out of reach for their parents. Our research indicates that appropriate and proportionate investment in education on the part of the Government of Haiti and the international community, thereby making primary school free and available locally throughout Haiti, will significantly reduce the number of children placed into domestic servitude.

SESSION 7 – Panel 10: Child Perpetrators and the Justice System

Paper 1

◆ **Exploring Delinquency: Are Exposure to Violence, Self-Esteem and Parent-Child Attachment Predictors of Juvenile Delinquency in Jamaican Adolescents?**

Stacey N. Brodie-Walker & Kai A.D. Morgan, University of the West Indies

This study seeks to identify the predictors of juvenile delinquency in a sample of Jamaican adolescents. The variables examined were self-esteem, parent-child attachment and exposure to violence. Participants included 116 Jamaican adolescents (55 delinquent and 61 non-delinquent) males and females between the ages of 14-18. The delinquent participants were selected from several remand centres in the Kingston and St. Andrew area, while the non-delinquent participants were selected from several local inner-city high schools. All participants completed the HARE Self-Esteem Scale (HSS), the Family Relationship Scale, the Violent Victimization Survey, and a demographic questionnaire. Logistic regression and analysis of variance were used to analyze the data. Results indicated that exposure to violence was the only significant variable and sole predictor of delinquency. Recommendations are also discussed.

Paper 2

♦ **The Justice System and Children**

Mary P. Clarke, Children's Advocate; Sophia Frazer Binns, Legal Policy Officer, Office of the Children's Advocate

Children get involved in the justice system in many ways, as victims, perpetrators, or witnesses.

The Child Care and Protection Act 2004 is very clear on how a child should be treated and dealt with once he comes into contact with the system. The Act seeks to ensure the rights of the child are upheld and to bring the laws in alignment with international treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Beijing Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice.

The Paper will examine how the child is treated in the Jamaican Court system. It will also highlight the results of studies as well as findings from interviews with the many stakeholders in the justice system, including children, judges, children's officers, police officers.

Finally recommendations will be made on various measures to be implemented to ensure compliance with the Child Care and Protection Act and other treaties.

Paper 3

♦ **Interventions to Reduce Aggression among Young children: A Pilot Study**

*Julie Meeks Gardner, Christine Powell, Yewande Lewis, Joan Thomas
Caribbean Child Development Centre, UWI; Epidemiological Research Unit, UWI; University of Iowa*

This study was designed to pilot interventions aimed at improving parental practices and teacher classroom management in an effort to improve child behaviour, with a long term goal to reduce violence. Four primary schools in Kingston, Jamaica were randomly assigned to receive a parent training programme (parent), a teacher training programme (teacher), a combined intervention with both the components (both) or neither intervention (control). Aggressive children in grades 1 and 2 were teacher-nominated and consent for participation sought from their parents. Workshops were arranged with teachers from grades 1, 2 and 3. The interventions were based on the Incredible Years programmes. For parents/caregivers these comprised 12 weekly 2 to 2 ½ hour workshops on contingency management programs, effective non-physical discipline, supervisory and monitoring skills, and non-physical strategies for dealing with intra-family conflicts. For teachers, 15 hours of workshops covered child management, behaviour problems and self esteem, communication with caregivers, conflict resolution, and other school programmes. 47 teachers and 122 child/caretaker pairs completed the study. Children in the groups receiving the parent intervention, or both interventions improved in their emotional difficulties, those receiving both interventions also improved their arithmetic scores, while those in the teacher intervention group improved their spelling score. The children's attitude to school also improved with either intervention or both interventions. These were small, but important differences which might have an impact on the children's school career.

Paper 5

♦ **Art as an Assessment Tool for Caribbean Children exposed to Violence**

Claudette Crawford-Brown, Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, UWI

This paper is a description of a measurement tool developed by the researcher out of a project designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of art as an intervention tool for working with children exposed to violence, as victims and as perpetrators. The illustrations used were chosen from over 400 drawings done by children between the ages of 4 and 16 years old in Jamaica and Trinidad, who received therapeutic interventions for being exposed to violence in its different forms.

The measurement tool categorized the types of violence based on specific criteria. These criteria were then used to develop a simple pen and paper instrument that can be used by professionals such as guidance counsellors, social workers and community worker to make a preliminary assessment regarding those children who may need referral for specialized treatment.

It was determined that of a group of 115 children drawn from two primary schools in violent prone communities of Kingston Jamaica between 2003 to 2005, 80% of them had witnessed five to eight murders, 10% had witnessed nine or more murders, while another 10% had witnessed fewer than four murders. The researcher sought to examine the children's reactions to determine whether these children were showing possible adaptive responses to trauma which may not have been detected by the indicators used in the standardized DSM IV definitions. This was done by using a number of assessment instruments including the use of art and narratives from the children themselves. The measurement tool developed for assessing the drawings, used criteria which included the bizarre nature of the content, the use of space, and the use of colour among other variables.

Paper 1

- ◆ **Nonsense or New Domains of Meaning? An Intercultural Perspective of Linguistic Productivity in an Indigenous Language**
Norma Del Río, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, KI-CWI-México

As part of an intercultural project (2003-2005) designed to revitalize indigenous languages by promoting literacy in their maternal tongue with the use of TIC's, we analyze a set of divergent responses from the written production of indigenous *p'urhepechan* children, who attend 10 primary rural schools in the Mexican state of *Michoacán*, when asked to write synonyms and antonyms of words they got to choose and define.

The linguistic task assigned was to produce a collective dictionary in the language or languages of their own choice (in this case *p'urhépecha* or/and Spanish), using the Italian software *Addizionario*. This program has a friendly multilingual and interactive interface. Each pair or triad of children had their own virtual notebook to work with words as a trigger for textual and non textual activities such as definitions, short stories, free association, examples, synonyms/antonyms, voice recordings of pronunciation or drawing.

Antonyms were proposed for almost half of the corpus, while there were fewer synonyms offered (.25). A descriptive analysis was made of the total responses written in both languages, after translation into Spanish of the *p'urhepechan* text with the help of an indigenous teacher considered as a "sage" by their own people. Emphasis is made to the particular way of conceiving oppositions, which seems to be of an inclusive kind with an analogical and complementary view. Contradiction is displaced by compatibility, in a logic not bound by the true or false judgment of the world but by rules that make sense in different possible worlds.

Paper 2

- ◆ **Using Multi-Media Software with Teachers and Students: A Case Study**
Kay Xuereb, University of the West Indies

This paper describes a research project conducted in a Jamaican school between January and June 2006 to investigate how Information and Communications Technology (ICT) can be used to develop student literacy skills. Two hundred and forty primary school students from two grades were involved in the project with their six class teachers.

The research was designed as a qualitative case study. A variety of data collection instruments were used during the project including participant and non-participant observation, individual and group interviews and documents. Principally the researcher was a participant observer, working with the teachers and their students, providing orientation and guidance in the use of ICT. Student and teacher learning was experienced first-hand and documented as it happened.

Analysis of the data collected from the students and teachers has revealed a number of issues. Those related to the students include:

1. The effect of involvement in the project on student attendance and self-esteem
2. Gender differences among the students in their use of the multi-media creative writing software
3. Gender differences in the books created using the software.

Limited research literature currently exists on the use of new technologies in the education system in Jamaica and it is expected that this research will increase knowledge and understanding of the use of ICT for literacy development.

Paper 3

- ◆ **Who Are We Kidding? Media Representations of Sexual Violence Against Children in Jamaica**
Taitu Heron, Planning Institute of Jamaica

In every corner of the island, among the uneducated and educated, whether urban or rural, whether, rich, middle class or poor, sexual violence against children is a disturbing constant in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. There seems to be an increasing cultural normalization of violence and the maltreatment of children.

Jamaica also has a vibrant media industry that continues to shape perceptions and attitudes of children, men and women of all walks of life. This paper seeks to analyse media depictions of sexual violence against children over a specific period of time (specifically the print media - the *Star*, the *Gleaner* and *X-News* – September 2006 – August 2007) in order to investigate the extent to which the media perpetuates this culture of tolerance; and reinforces the unequal gender order.

Drawing on selected news articles covering reports of sexual violence against children, the analysis demonstrates that the reporting these incidents either trivialise it, sideline it, ridicule participants, or perpetuates negative stereotypes of boys and girls and sexual behaviour. In some cases, evidence also points to the use of media as a voice to be heard by victims and/or their families where the

judicial system and law enforcement has proven inadequate. In a few instances, the personhood of children is ignored. The paper concludes by locating this dilemma in the wider discursive framework of the gender order and the treatment of children.

SESSION 7 – Panel 12: Child Participation and Youth Issues

Paper 1

◆ **Towards a National Strategy on Child Participation: Identifying Spaces and Opportunities in the Policy Development Process**

Kaytana McLeod, Brigette McDonald Levy, Policy Analysis and Review Unit, Office of the Cabinet and Jamaica Foundation for Children

Child participation is acknowledged as a meaningful strategy in the process of child development and is critical in the fulfilment of child rights. Jamaica has taken some steps towards including children in the formulation of policies and programmes as the Government of Jamaica, through the Cabinet Office seeks to strengthen the process of policy development, and include all citizens in policy and programme design and delivery. The Cabinet Office and the Jamaica Foundation for Children convened a focus group discussion with sixteen (16) policy analysts from 7 Ministries Department and Agencies of the Government to look at the policy development process and identify spaces and opportunities for meaningful input from children and concerned stakeholders on children issues, including parents, teachers, service providers, the media and the public.

This paper presents the process of policy development, highlights most suitable opportunities for meaningful participation, and documents some of the concerns of public sector around consulting with children. The paper closes with a review of areas to be addressed through the National Strategy of Child Participation if child participation in policies that affect them is to become a reality.

Paper 2

◆ **Self-Representations of Jamaican Adolescents: Actual, Ideal, and Perceived Parental Ideal**

Gail M. Ferguson, Children's Institute, University of Rochester

This study investigated adolescents' views of their actual selves, ideal selves, and perceptions of their parents' ideals for them. 212 male and female traditional high school students in Kingston from 1st, 3rd, and 5th forms depicted their self-portraits using separate "Identity Pies" -- a novel graphical measure in the form of an evenly divided 20-slice pie developed and validated for this study. Adolescents depicted their self-portraits by assigning Pie slices (20 total) to 6 domains -- schoolwork, family, religion, friends, dating, sports -- and an "other" category based on the importance of each domain within the respective self-representation. In addition, adolescents self-reported emotional adjustment (e.g., self-esteem, depression), behavioral adjustment (e.g., conduct problems) and academic adjustment (i.e., average exam grades). Consistent with the intergenerational values transmission perspective (e.g., Schönplflug, 2001) all three selves (i.e., actual, ideal and perceived parental ideal) bore significant resemblance. In the form of a simple equation, ranking within all three self-portraits was as follows: schoolwork > religion/family > friends/sports > dating. Further, all three self-representations were significantly related to students' academic, emotional, and behavioral functioning. That is, the degree of identification with the schoolwork, family, and religion domains was related to better academic and emotional functioning, whereas degree of identification with the dating and friends domains was related to poorer emotional, behavioural and academic functioning. Findings support prior international and Caribbean research on adolescent development and parent-adolescent relationships.

Paper 3

◆ **Leadership training as an approach in child participation activities**

Brigette McDonald Levy, Jamaica Foundation for Children; Jacqueline Stevens, Community Development

Child participation is acknowledged as a meaningful strategy in the process of child development and is critical in the fulfillment of child rights. Jamaica has taken some steps towards including children in the formulation of policies and programmes however gaps exists on how best to create other spaces including fostering the values and commitments of citizenship among adolescents. The construct of citizenship speaks to the expectations and civic responsibilities associated with preserving civil, social and political privileges bestowed upon citizens of a larger community.

This paper documents one aspect of the Jamaica Foundation for Children's child advocacy project, that consisted of an intervention in which 24 children, ages 14-17 were introduced to the concept of leadership, reflected on the characteristics of leaders and identified national leaders whom they thought displayed these characteristics. Face to face discussions between these leaders and the group helped identify additional qualities and traits to be emulated as they explored the expectations of citizenship. Using a case study approach, this paper reflects on the suitability of using various approaches in child participation and concludes that using the construct of leadership to build awareness of citizenship among a group of adolescent students was useful, and that when leadership training is incorporated as a integral component of strengthening advocacy and participation of young people, the youth are more inclined to continue with advocacy efforts, and indicate a renewed interest in their own development and that of others. The paper concludes with recommendations for child participation training kit.