



LITERACY AND LIFE SKILLS INAUGURAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SUCCESSFUL

The theme of the inaugural research symposium of the Trinidad and Tobago Reading Association and the International Professional Life Skills Association on April 4th was **Inquiry Shapes Innovation: Promoting a Culture of Research in Literacy and Life Skills** and it was gratifying to see this demonstration of a culture of research in the papers presented by university lecturers, school teachers, social workers, tertiary education facilitators and graduates of Life Skills courses. **Ceronne Prevatt**, Executive member of both associations gave a historical perspective of Life Skills in T&T and the underlying research. **Jesse- Bryan Hackshaw**, a Psychology and Management Studies graduate of UWI shared his research on perceptions of gender in the

minds of young adults; **Lynette Beharry-Pierre and Annette Brizan**, participants in the Teaching of Life Skills with Literacy diploma course at UWI Open Campus detailed their research into diagnostic assessment of literacy among participants in Life skills courses. **Dr. Rona Flippo**, Director of the International Reading Association, shared her research into formative assessment in shaping literacy instruction in the classroom. **Stacey Gould** of COSTATT shared a framework of 5 activities for lesson planning and Barbara Bridgewater, Life Skills tutor, excited the group of 100 participants with an interactive demonstration of the environment game that resulted from her research. **Gerard Simonette** of UTT and **Perle Brewster**, Principal, shared their exploration into the dispositions of teachers towards assessment practices, and towards manifesting critical thinking practices in educational institutions, respectively. **Darlene Smith**, lecturer, made the participants look into their socialisation practices and the need for Life Skills development among all citizens of this country, as she detailed her research into child abuse, hidden in plain sight among us. The research symposium ended with a mini-workshop on Action Research by **Lynette Noel** of UTT.

The book display included books that resulted from research by members of the organisations: '**The Night Nopat Was Left Out**' a story by Lynette Noel and '**Life Skills Training**' a text and workbook by Ceronne Prevatt and Dianne Hyles. The website liberation education .com will give further information on these books and on being part of the International Professional Life Skills Association, the International Reading Association, and the Trinidad and Tobago Reading Association. A special concession in honour of this inaugural research symposium is joint membership in both international associations for \$20. USD for the first 50 who contact them at lifeskillscoursepi@gmail.com and ttra82@gmail.com .