



ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE RESEARCHERS IN EDUCATION
School of Education, UWI, Mona

March 17, 2021, Vol. 2, Issue 2

THE ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE RESEARCHERS IN EDUCATION

Improving Educational Outcomes Through Research

About AGRE

The Association of Graduate Researchers in Education (AGRE) operates from the School of Education at the University of the West Indies, Mona. The AGRE was established in 2006 but after a few years of being dormant, the association was re-activated in 2016.

Vision

AGRE, the leading research association for graduate researchers in the field of education

AGRE's Mission and Mandate:

- To create platforms to discuss and address issues and concerns related to education, locally and internationally;
- To promote professional development of members through seminars, conferences and mentorship;
- To network with key stakeholders in addressing issues and practices impacting education;
- To augment the capacity of members in conducting high quality research; and
- To collaborate with School of Education faculty in conducting research relevant to issues and problems impacting the education system.

The President's Message

March 10, 2021 signaled a complete year since the first confirmed COVID-19 case in Jamaica. The pandemic has reiterated many of the unspoken inequities and inequalities that exist in our education system. However, numerous opportunities have arisen for us as educators and researchers.

Certainly, the pandemic has jolted some of our practices, perceptions and dispositions regarding the importance of engaging in research to inform what we do, how we do and why we do what we do as educators. It should be more evident to us that in order to deliver quality education to our students and communities we must proactively engage in the quest to improve our practices. Key to this is our ability to identify challenges and devise feasible ways of surmounting them. But, what good is that without sharing our successes and yes, our failures?

As researchers in the field of education, I suggest that we embrace the tenets of the ant philosophy. This philosophy suggests that:

1. **Don't ever quit** - teaching is complex and multifaceted. Challenges abound in so many ways and forms. Like the ant, I encourage you to always find a way to overcome. The ant never stops moving. It finds a way over or around any obstacle. Research empowers us to do just that.
2. **Think winter during the summer** - it is important to think ahead. Never should we become complacent with the present that we become oblivious to the future. It is wise to use research to identify possible loopholes and challenges that you may encounter in the future.
3. **Think summer all winter** - nothing lasts forever. Admittedly, challenges emerge daily but problem-solving can help you to overcome. Whilst it may take some time, it is expected that the pandemic will come to an end. By engaging your problem-solving and critical thinking skills, you can minimise the time spent dealing with a problem.
4. **Do all you can** - ants do not compete, they collaborate. Teaching and research should reflect collaboration. At AGRE, we remain committed to supporting you as a researcher to do all that you can.

Keriffe Clark
President
2020-2022



Webinar Highlights



THE RELEVANCE OF RESEARCHING DURING REMOTE LEARNING: IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Presenters

Rochelle Harris
Shanique Walker-Carty
Daneille Green

Friday, February 26, 2021 @5:00pm

Join us on Zoom

Meeting ID: 825 4434 2966 Passcode: 663137

Email: agrejamaica@gmail.com

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Address: School of Education, UWI, Mona

More specific to remote learning, data can be gathered to:

- ascertain the factors that are accounting for achievement
- analyze the systems used in remote learning and their effectiveness
- create agendas for policy makers
- improve resource allocation necessary during remote learning.

Miss Rochelle Harris presented from the teachers' perspective and titled her presentation: "How Can Educators Leverage Research During Remote Learning?"

In her presentation she defined research and outlined the two main branches of research, quantitative and qualitative research and explained how teachers can use data to improve the quality of education. Ms. Harris noted that educators can leverage researching during remote learning by collecting data. The data collected can then be used to assess the learning experiences of students generally while background data can be collected on students to diagnose and remedy poor performance.

Additionally, research can inform self evaluation and pedagogical improvement.



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Webinar Highlights

The parent representative **Mrs. Shanique Walker-Carty** presented on “The Tale of Two Parents: Remote Learning During a Pandemic” where she examined the plight of rural parents in a pandemic and sought to explicate how parents can channel their outrage and varying emotions related to the perceived injustices of remote learning. She encouraged parents to conduct research as research agents during this time and seize the opportunity to research on matters affecting the remote learning experiences for themselves and their children. This will enable parents to come from an informed place when addressing the ills.

Mrs. Walker Carty recommended partnering with other parents, starting research on a small scale, writing letters to the editor, blogs and even vlogs. She cautioned the audience however, to be solution driven when approaching the maladies in remote learning and to do so by using research to guide the very solutions that are proffered.

Mrs. Walker Carty noted some benefits of researching:

- *parent-child bonding*
- *developing patience*
- *relieving of anxiety*
- *ultimately improving academic performance for the children who are at the centre of the remote learning dilemma.*

Webinar Highlights



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Strategies to assist students during remote learning:

- students can engage in goal setting during the remote learning space
- routines can be created by students to monitor self as they learn remotely
- students can engage in reflection on their remote learning experiences.

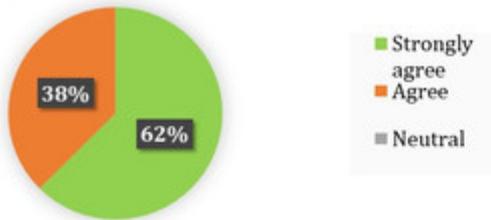
Ms. Danielle Green, the panellist who spoke from the student perspective, emphasised the relevance of research during remote learning noting significantly the lack of connectedness that remote learning can cause on students. She underscored the importance of psychological wellness, student sympathy and finding a safe space as learners during remote learning. These are in addition to independent learning being a critical factor in remote learning.

Ms. Green highlighted the significance of teachers researching how to foster connectedness among students during remote learning so that greater empathy and sensitivity can be exercised when dealing with students. Additionally, research can inform how students are to be supported in working independently as lifelong learners during remote learning.

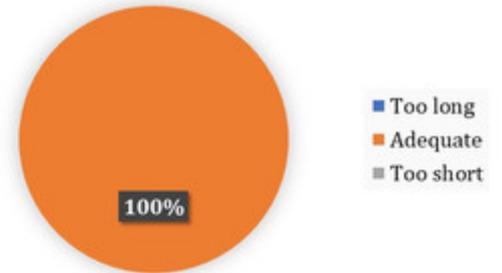
How did you rate our PD?

WE ASKED YOU TO RATE US AND YOU DID! HERE IS WHAT THE DATA REVEALED

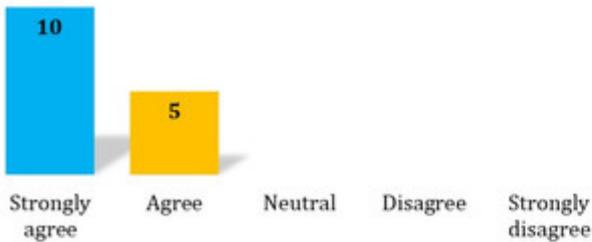
The presenters were able to retain my interest throughout the session.



The duration of the session was ...

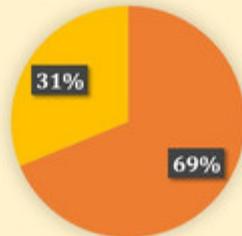


I have gleaned useful knowledge from the session

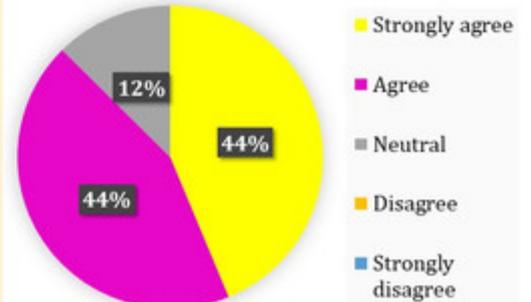


The session was relevant to my personal and professional development.

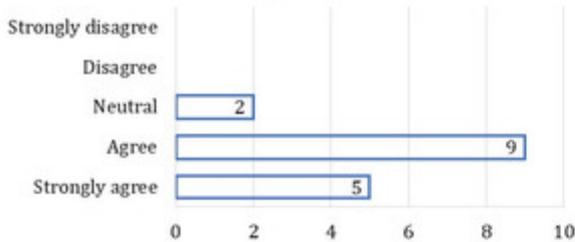
Strongly agree
Agree
Neutral
Disagree
Strongly disagree



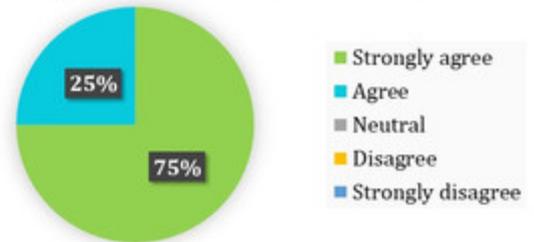
The session has provided me with relevant knowledge to build my research capacity



The session has provided me with relevant skills to build my research capacity



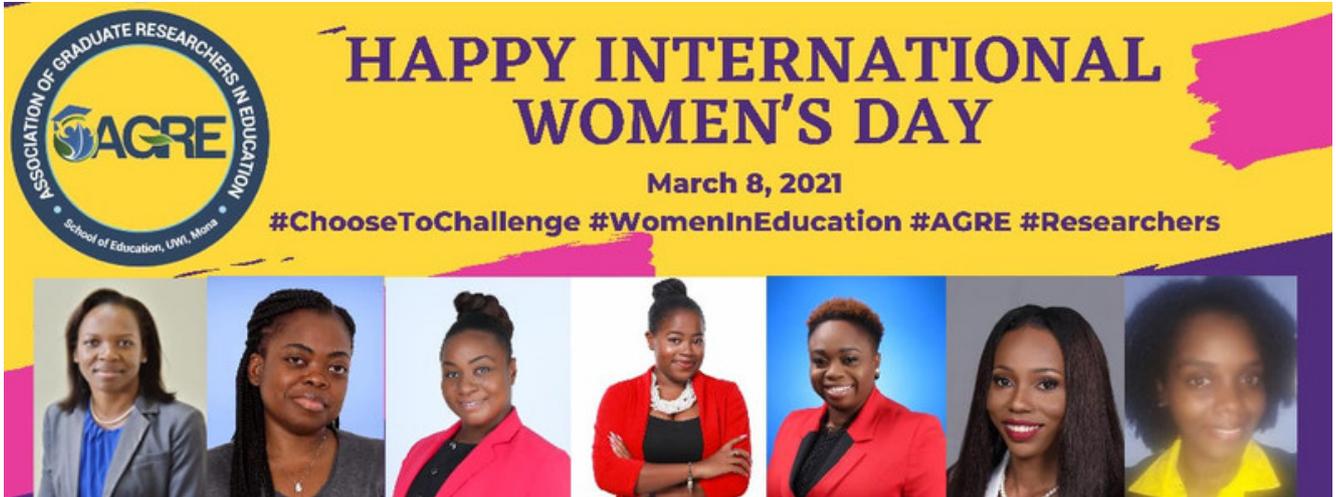
I am pleased with the overall session as planned by the AGRE executive



"Profound impact requires data-driven decisions. Let the data speak!"

Happy International Women's Day

March 8, 2021 marked International Women's day. The female members of AGRE Executive team represented well. Be sure to watch the message on YouTube from our Vice-President, Ruth-Ann Edwards.



YouTube™ Search

Association of Graduate Researchers in Education

#ChooseToChallenge #AGRE #UWIMONA
Happy International Women's Day - 2021: Message from AGRE's VP

42 views • Mar 8, 2021

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Association of Graduate Researchers in Education
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Ruth-Ann Edwards, Vice President of the Association of Graduate Researchers in Education (AGRE), shares a message on International Women's Day. #ChooseToChallenge #AGRE #UWIMONA #SOE

"Do not be daunted by your obstacles. Use research to overcome"



The AGRE congratulates and celebrates the following individuals on their respective achievements:

- Shanique Walker-Carty's paper, "**Zooming in on Homeschooling in a Rural Jamaica Home during a Crisis**" has been accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Educational Leadership on March 18, 2021.
- Elsa Calliard Burton's paper, "**Home Sweet School: Exploring the Redefinition of Parental Involvement**" has been accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Educational Leadership on March 18, 2021.
- Shereca Hunter's paper, "**A Seat around the table: Adapting the Curriculum to meet Diverse Needs**" has been accepted by the Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies research conference on March 31, 2021.
- Ruth-Ann Edwards has been accepted to present her paper entitle "**Teacher Leadership during a Pandemic**" at the Caribbean Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies research conference on March 31, 2021.
- Keriffe Clark has been engaged as a research consultant with the UWI SODECO Mangrove Restoration Project.

Coming Soon:

- More professional development research webinar workshops
- Research conference
- Research mentorship for postgraduate students and AGRE members
- AGRE's official website
- AGRE's LinkedIn profile

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