Ac

Research Prospectus

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**Assignment 1: Introduction and Problem Statement**

Draft the Introduction and Statement of the Problem sections.

Introduce the topic, define the scope, and clearly articulate the issue.

Structure (Assignment evaluation includes the following structure below).

1. Download the “OGS APA Course Assignments Template 7th Ed 2021” template from the **General Helps** folder in the AA-101 The Gathering Place Course on DIAL. Using the template create the following pages.

b. Copy and paste the assignment instructions from the syllabus starting on a new page after the title page, adhering to APA 7th edition style (APA 7 Workshop, Formatting, and Style Guide, APA 7 Quick Guide).

c. Start the assignment on a new page after the copied assignment instructions.

d. Document all sources in APA style, 7th edition ( APA 7 Reference Example, APA 7 Quick Guide)

5. Submit through **DIAL** to the professor.

**INTRODUCTION**

In Trinidad and Tobago, despite the small population of approximately 1.4 million people in the country, there is a significant crime problem that is mostly committed by young people and, more specifically, by young men. The government has developed a ministry that focuses wholly on youth development. Despite these many programs available to young people, the crime rate continues to climb. Previous governments have had a youth division as part of a ministry such as; Youth and Gender Affairs or The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, but the current government thought it was worthwhile to establish a ministry focused solely on youth issues, so there is currently the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service (MYDNS).

The purpose of this action research project is to address the problem of the lack of sustainable youth development programs in Trinidad and Tobago that effectively address the youth issues in the country and thus address the ever-increasing crime problem. This action research will seek to determine the most effective components in youth development programming that will aid in their longevity and also aid in the changed behaviour of young people in conflict with the law, or that will keep them engaged and attracted to positive aspects of society while empowering them to be productive members of society.

**Problem**

The problem is significant because although the MYDNS produces many programmes every financial year, there has yet to be a significant reduction in criminality that is performed by those in the youth population. Depending on the programme, it is highly subscribed to however, during the duration of the programme, they experience dropouts for various reasons and they are not attractive to those who would truly benefit from the various initiatives that the MYDNS put forward. Despite what those within the field would describe as easy access there is always a sector of society that claims that the government does not provide adequate opportunities to young people or that they are unfairly subscribed, as the admissions are predominantly Afro-Trinidadian youth in comparison to their Indo- Trinidadian peers. For fiscal year 2023/2024, the government, by way of the MYDNS, has proposed to do 21 projects for the year which is more than the previous fiscal year. Having been involved in youth work for several years, the most successful programmes are ongoing rather than a one-off programme with a lot of pump and ceremony. Programmes where young people are able to build relationships with a mentor or peer mentors yield the most change or beneficial outcomes.

This action research project seeks to examine the usefulness of these government programs by targeting the demographic of young persons who may have been in the juvenile justice system and, unfortunately, have little access or interest in the programs being offered. The project would seek to develop a follow-up/ support system for youth who have been in conflict with the law. It also seeks to filter a percentage of juveniles into appropriate government programmes as a means of combatting recidivism.