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Exploring the Influence of Stigmatisation of Sexually Abused Learners at Rural Secondary Schools in Limpopo Province, South Africa

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ABSTRACT The purpose of the paper is to explore the influences of stigmatisation of sexually abused learners at secondary schools in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. There is an outcry that there is an ever-increasing number of learners who are sexually abused at schools, and most of the cases are not reported. Besides the fact that victims are psychologically, emotionally, and physically affected, some of them are stigmatised. The stigmatisation brings shame, confusion, depression, and low self-esteem, and as a result, they end up leaving school at an early stage. A qualitative approach and interpretive paradigm were followed in exploring the influence of stigmatisation of sexually abused learners at schools. Data collection was through a literature review and document analysis of national and provincial sexual abuse policies in schools. It was found that stigmatisation contributes negatively to the wellbeing of the sexually abused learners at school.