

## Learners' Perspectives on Bullying in South African Schools

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**ABSTRACT** This paper aimed to investigate learners' perspectives on bullying in two secondary schools in KwaZulu-Natal Province. A qualitative approach and a case study research design was used. Interviews and document analysis were also used to solicit data from 10 learners from each school and texts respectively. The Theory of Social Deviance was employed to investigate the reasons why learners bully, or are bullied by, their peers. The results indicated that bullying occurred in different forms, and was caused by different factors, ranging from social to economic issues. The study concluded that there was bullying in secondary schools and that it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to work together to reduce the impact of this scourge. The researchers recommend the establishment of a school-wide task force composed of educators, parents, students and community members, to develop and implement anti-bullying programmes.